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EDITORIAL NOTE

The Office of the Presiding Officer of a Legislature is one of very high importance and prestige in our parliamentary polity. No deliberative body can function effectively without a capable and competent individual to preside over its sittings and to ensure that the deliberations are within the laid-down rules of procedure. In India, as elsewhere, the Presiding Officer represents the collective voice in all dealings within the House and with the world outside as well. Every day of the Legislature is a new experience. The rules governing the functioning of the House are sacrosanct but it has also to be borne in mind that the Legislature is a dynamic institution, ever evolving. That being so, rules should be able to cope with emerging realities and native requirements. In such a scenario, greater interaction and cooperation between legislative institutions in the country and their Presiding Officers has assumed much significance.

The Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India is as old as the Central Legislative Assembly, set up in 1921, in the wake of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms of 1919. Ever since its inception, also in 1921, the Conference has worked as an invaluable forum for exchange of experience and views among the fraternity of Presiding Officers in the country.

The Sixty-third Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held in Hyderabad from 30 to 31 May 2000. Four main subjects, *viz.* 'Issues Arising out of the so-called Dual Membership of Parliament and/or State Legislatures'; 'Relationship between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary'; 'Office of the Speaker in a Multi-Party System'; and 'Proposals regarding future pattern of Presiding Officers' Conference', were discussed by the Presiding Officers. The Conference, hosted by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, was attended by almost all the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India. As in the past, the Conference was opened by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, who is also the Chairman of the Conference. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Inaugural Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi.

Coalitions are products of the political realities as they emerge in a political system. In India, coalition governments emerged in a large way after the General Elections of 1967 in six States and since then coalition governments have been constituted from time to time, mostly in the States and of late at the Centre as well. This has led to much debate

in the country on the impact of coalition governments on political stability as also on good governance. Needless to say, Presiding Officers of Legislatures have also been concerned at the recent developments relating to coalition governance in our country. A Symposium on "Coalition Governance and Political Stability" was held in Hyderabad on 1 June 2000 immediately following the 63rd Conference of Presiding Officers. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the Symposium and also made a presentation on the subject. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Balayogi presided over the Symposium and delivered the Opening Address. Presiding Officers, members of Parliament and members of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly participated in the Symposium. We reproduce in this issue the texts of the Addresses delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu.

Parliamentary democracy has struck deep roots in our country, and the Legislatures have been functioning effectively as the voice of the people everywhere. The North East Region of India, with its distinctive customs and culture, has also been a fertile soil for the evolution and growth of representative institutions. The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), in its role as a facilitator and bulwark of parliamentary democracy, has been cooperating with legislative bodies in organising Seminars and Conferences for the benefit of elected representatives of the people and others. Starting 1997, the Legislatures of the North East Region, in conjunction with the CPA, have organised Conferences in which topical issues of concern to the region and practice and procedure-related issues have been discussed. The Fourth North-East Region CPA Conference, held in Shillong, Meghalaya from 6 to 8 June 2000, was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Balayogi. The text of the Inaugural Address is included in this issue of the *Journal.*

Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu was one of the outstanding leaders in the nation's socio-political firmament. He was a veteran freedom fighter, a renowned parliamentarian, a committed administrator, a fearless journalist and a brilliant lawyer. Above all, he was a great champion of the cause of a separate State of Andhra, a dream which was realized in due course. In honour of the memory of this great son of India and as a token of gratitude to his many contributions to our national life, a statue of the *Andhra Kesari* was unveiled in the precincts of Parliament House by the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan on 5 May 2000. The ceremony was associated with a day-long Exhibition titled "Life and Times of *Andhra Kesari* Tanguturi Prakasam".

We carry in this issue of the *Journal* a Short Note titled 'Unveiling of the Statue of *Andhra Kesari* Shri Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu'.

In a democratic system, Parliament is the people's institution par excellence which symbolizes their sovereign power and represents their collective will. It is, therefore, imperative that such an institution is housed in a building which would lend grandeur and grace to all those who walk into its portals. The Parliament House, one of the most magnificent buildings in the country, is one such building that provides an ideal accommodation for the Indian Parliament. In his article, "The Parliament Estate", included in this issue of the *Journal*, the Editor attempts to give a glimpse of the historical architectural background of the Parliament House and its various structural parts, *viz.* the Central Hall, the Lok Sabha Chamber, the Rajya Sabha Chamber, the Parliament Library, etc., as also the Parliament House Annexe. The article also discusses the sate-of-the art new Parliament Library Building, named *Sansadiya Gyanpeeth*, which is fast nearing completion in the Parliament Estate.

This issue of the *Journal* carries our other regular Features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Privilege Issues, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Sessional Review, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest and Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest.

Our readers would be pleased to know that the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi was unanimously elected as the Chairman of the Asia Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) on 20 May 2000. We extend our heartiest congratulations to Shri Balayogi on this honour bestowed on him.

It has been our constant endeavour to make this *Journal* more useful and informative. We would greatly welcome suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem-oriented non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and institutions from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—G.C. Malhotra
Editor

1

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI AT THE 63RD CONFERENCE OF PRESIDING OFFICERS OF LEGISLATIVE BODIES IN INDIA

The 63rd Conference of the Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh from 30 to 31 May 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi delivered the Inaugural Address on 30 May 2000.

We reproduce below the text of the Address.

—Editor

Honourable Speaker of Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Smt. K. Prathibha Bharati Garu, Fellow Presiding Officers, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It is a matter of great pleasure and an honour to be here with you all this morning and to join our gracious hosts in welcoming fellow Presiding Officers to the city of Hyderabad and to our Conference this year. Before I proceed further, I would like to convey, on behalf of all of you, our deep appreciation to the people and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, to the Honourable Speaker and the members of the Legislative Assembly and to the Staff of the Assembly Secretariat, for the excellent arrangements they have made for this Conference.

This is the third time since Independence that Hyderabad is hosting the Conference of Presiding Officers. Earlier, in 1960 and in 1981, Hyderabad had hosted the Conference. I am sure, in the coming days, our guests from the other State Legislatures will get to experience the warmth and affection of the people of Andhra, their traditional hospitality and the rich cultural diversities for which this capital city has been known for centuries.

Friends, between the previous Conference and now, there have been several important developments of political and parliamentary interest. Last year, in 1999; our country faced a near war-like situation in the Kargil sector. The remarkable professionalism and the exemplary courage displayed by our Armed Forces in the most trying circumstances will be recorded in the annals of our country in golden letters. Our nation will

remember with gratitude all those who made the supreme sacrifice in defence of its integrity.

After the previous Conference in New Delhi in September 1998, thirty-three distinguished persons have joined the family of Presiding Officers. That includes my colleague in the Lok Sabha, Shri Sayeed Saheb who needs no introduction. On behalf of all of you and on my own behalf, I extend a hearty welcome to each one of them as they join our fraternity.

I also place on record our appreciation of the valuable contribution made to our Conferences by those colleagues who have now ceased to be the Presiding Officers. We wish them all well.

As you are aware Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha was unanimously elected President of the Inter-Parliamentary Council in Berlin in October, 1999. She is the first woman to head this international parliamentary body and the second Indian after Dr. G.S. Dhillon to adorn this office. Though she is not here due to her other commitments, on your behalf and on my own behalf, I extend our heartiest felicitations to her.

Between the previous Conference and the present one, we have successfully come through the process of yet another parliamentary election and elections to several State Legislatures. These elections have also reaffirmed our people's commitment to parliamentary democracy. The results of these elections reflected the pluralistic nature of the Indian society and the concomitant need for sharing political power between the diverse groups and interests that constitute India. I would now like to recapitulate some of the important issues that the Lok Sabha was seized of since our previous Conference.

All of you are aware of the developments in Parliament in early 1999 which led to the premature dissolution of the Lok Sabha and the mid-term elections. Following the withdrawal of support to the Government by one of the coalition partners, the Prime Minister was called upon to prove his majority on the floor of the House by the President. The three-day debate on the Prime Minister's Confidence Motion from 15 April concluded with the vote on the Motion on 17 April and the resultant defeat of the Motion by a single vote. Before the Motion of Confidence was put to vote, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri P.R. Kumaramangalam submitted that the Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Giridhar Gamang who was yet to relinquish his membership of the Lok Sabha and was present in the House, should not be allowed to cast his vote on the Motion.

With due regard to the high standards of objectivity associated with the office of the Presiding Officer and after considering the issue in its totality and on merit, I ruled thus:

> "There are instances where members, on their appointment as Ministers in the State, have signed Attendance Register of Lok Sabha to avoid loss of seat for non-attendance in the House. However, in a few instances, it has been observed from the Chair that while such Ministers continued to be members, it would not be desirable for them to participate in the deliberations of the House. Accordingly, such members withdrew from the House forthwith. Shri Giridhar Gamang, who is the Chief Minister of Orissa, continues to be a member of Lok Sabha. In view of the aforesaid, I leave it to the good sense of the member as regards the question of casting his vote on the Confidence Motion."
>
> Later, Shri Giridhar Gamang cast his vote against the Motion.

The fall of the Government naturally had a bearing on the pending financial business. Considering the urgency of the situation, the President, Shri K.R. Narayanan urged the Prime Minister to seek the consensus of all the political parties and take the initiative for an early and smooth passage of the Budget proposals. He also asked me to facilitate the process.

Subsequently, a meeting of all the Leaders of parties and groups was convened on 19 April 1999, where a consensus was arrived at that all the pending financial business might be passed without discussion. Accordingly, on 22 April 1999—the last day of the Twelfth Lok Sabha—the House passed the Railway and the General Budgets for the year 1999-2000 and the Finance Bill, 1999 without any discussion.

The Thirteenth Lok Sabha, actually constituted on 10 October 1999, commenced its first Session on 20 October 1999. On 22 October 1999, I have had the honour of being re-elected as the Speaker and subsequently, on 27 October 1999, Sayeed Saheb was re-elected as the Deputy Speaker.

It may be of interest to you all to note that making a departure from the established practice of presenting the General Budget at 5 P.M. on the last working day of February all these years, for the first time since Independence, the General Budget for the year 1999-2000 was presented by the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha to the Lok Sabha on 27 February 1999 at 11 A.M. The deviation was repeated this year also when the Finance Minister presented the Annual Budget for the year 2000-2001 at 2 P.M. on 29 February 2000.

Friends, on 26 January this year, our Republic completed its first fifty years The Parliament of India joined the rest of the country in celebrating the occasion when we organised the 50th Anniversary function in the Central Hall of our Parliament on the morning of 27 January 2000 in a befitting manner. The function, addressed by the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and myself, was a memorable event in the history of our Parliament.

Yet another significant event that took place recently was the highly successful Conference on "Parliament and the Media" held in the Parliament House Annexe, from 14 to 19 February this year. The recommendations of that Conference, jointly organised by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and the Parliament of India, will serve as an important guide in developing a healthy and mutually respecting relationship between these two vital institutions of democracy.

This year, on 22 March, we have had the honour to receive the President of the United States, Mr. William Jefferson Clinton, in our Parliament. His address to the members of our Parliament on that day where he stressed on the need to strengthen the relationship between our two democracies, was a memorable event in the history of Indo-American relations.

As part of our commitment to sustain the memory of our leaders of the Freedom Movement and others who have contributed significantly towards the building of Modern India, we organise various functions in our Parliament to honour such leaders. In our continuing endeavour in this regard, the statue of Andhra Kesari, T. Prakasam Panthulu was unveiled in the precincts of our Parliament House on 5 May this year.

Friends, you would be happy to know that with the setting up of the Committee on Ethics, the Lok Sabha has taken yet another step forward towards ensuring enhanced transparency and accountability in the functioning of our democratic institutions. Our Rajya Sabha had taken the lead in this when they set up such a Committee nearly two years back. Among our State Legislatures, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly is one of the two Legislatures to have introduced the Ethics Committee, the other being the Orissa Legislative Assembly.

As you are aware, at the First Conference of the Asia Region of CPA held in Calcutta this month, it has been decided to shift the regional office of the Association from Islamabad to New Delhi. I feel honoured to be chosen as the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Asia Region of the CPA. As the Chairman, it will be my endeavour

to translate this important parliamentary forum into an effective agency for strengthening democratic institutions in this region.

Friends, there are so many other events and issues associated with the day-to-day functioning of our Parliament and our society at large to which I would have liked to draw your attention. In view of the constraints of time, I am not venturing to do that. I would, however, like to say a few words about the subjects we have chosen for deliberations during the Conference.

Besides the subject for the Symposium where we will be dealing with the issues relating to coalition politics, we will be deliberating upon four other topics in the coming days. They are, 'Issues arising out of the so-called dual membership of Parliament and or the State Legislatures'; 'the Relationship between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary'; 'Office of the Speaker in a Multi-Party System'; and 'the Future Pattern of the Presiding Officers' Conference'.

The Third North-East Regional CPA Conference held at Imphal in May 1999 had discussed the question of the so-called dual membership. In this regard, the Conference recommended that the following aspects of this issue may be taken up for discussion at the Presiding Officers' Conference: (1) Continuation of membership of both Lok Sabha and State Legislature concurrently; (2) Reduction of the present period of six months for acquiring the membership of the House by non-members by amending the Constitution; (3) Automatic lapse/termination of membership of Lok Sabha once a member becomes Chief Minister; and (4) Restriction for a candidate to contest election from more than one territorial constituency at the same time though suitable amendment of the relevant provision of the laws. Therefore, the item "Issues arising out of the so-called Dual Membership of Parliament—and/or State Legislatures", has been placed on the agenda of the Conference.

The second subject on which we will be deliberating here concerns the relationship between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. Friends, to my mind, the most fundamental characteristic of a democratic polity is accountability. That is all the more so under a parliamentary democracy. Under this system, every organ of the State is expected to be accountable to one or the other organ and all of them together, working in conformity with our Constitution, are expected to be accountable to the people at large through the Parliament.

The Constitution of India, from which all the organs of government derive their powers, basically recognizes the broad principle of separation of powers among the three principal organs of the government—the

Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. Each of these organs is expected to function according to the respective role assigned to it.

The founders of our Constitution had visualised only a harmonious co-existence between the principal organs of the government, respecting the broad principle of separation of powers. Any attempt by any one of them to usurp the powers of the other could upset the scheme of distribution of powers as envisaged by the Constitution. It is important to bear in mind that if these three principal bodies of the government work at cross purposes, even day-to-day governance would become impossible. They have to work in harmony with one another always. Balancing each other's powers is a very sensitive and crucial job for each organ. Safeguarding the collective image of the entity of government is the collective responsibility of all the three principal organs of the government. This, to my mind, is an important pre-condition for sustaining our people's faith in the institutions of democracy.

The third subject, 'Office of the Speaker in a Multi-Party System', on the face of it, may appear to be a matter of concern primarily to the fraternity of the Presiding Officers only. I am sure, you all would agree with me if I say that this subject is essentially at the core of our legislative functioning. Perhaps, the office that has been subjected to a great degree of strain on account of the fast changing political scenario in the country has been that of the Speaker.

Friends, the Presiding Officer symbolises the dignity and power of the institution over which he presides. It is an office of great responsibility under a representative democracy. He has to ensure that under all circumstances the representative body scrupulously observes certain rules of business and that the public image of the institution is protected and enhanced. He cannot conduct the business of the House in an orderly manner unless the members respect the authority of the Chair. No doubt, the Presiding Officer's own sense of objectivity is an important factor here. Members should be given to feel that the Chair is there primarily to safeguard the authority of the House collectively and its members individually, regardless of their part-political identities. He should be able to conduct himself in a non-partisan, fair and balanced manner under all circumstances.

As you all are aware, 38 political parties are represented in the Lok Sabha today. In the States as well, the number of political parties is proliferating. The complexities of present—day politics have a direct bearing on the office of the Speaker also, even though his basic role and function to conduct the business of the House according to the Rules of Procedure and the established precedents remain the same.

The Speaker, however, is expected to be above the pressures of party politics and conduct the House in a non-partisan manner.

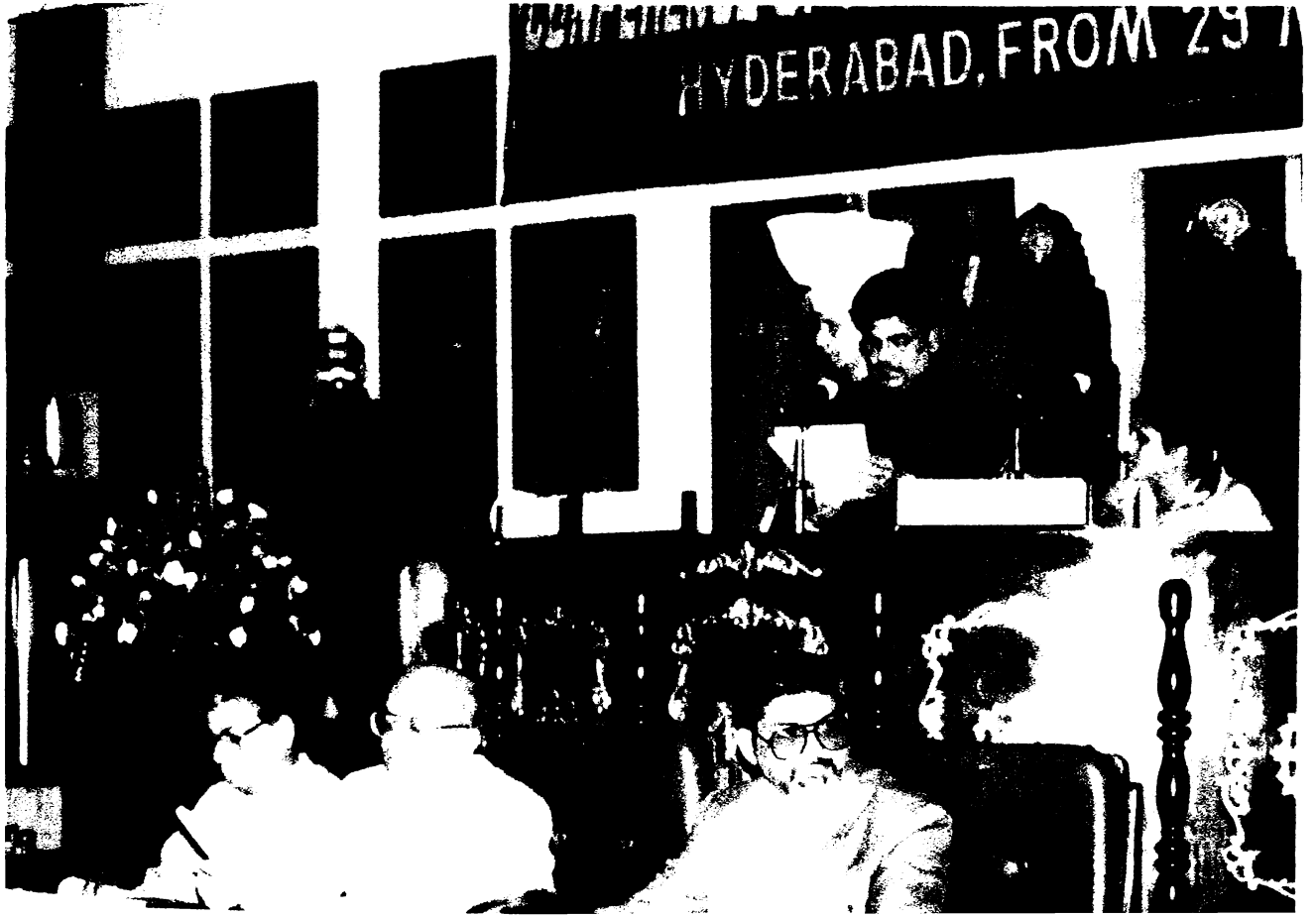
Friends, if such is the nature of demands and the expectations on the office of the Presiding Officer, a natural question arises as to what are the institutional safeguards to protect the independence and objectivity of the office. It is felt in some quarters that the conventions associated with our democratic functioning do not provide specifically for conditions to facilitate the independent and politically neutral functioning of the office of the Presiding Officer.

It is important for all of us to bear in mind that every office would invariably reflect in its functioning, the environment in which it is set. To ensure the impartial working of the office, it is essential that the Speaker should not be subjected to the compulsions of day-to-day politics. The Speaker's isolation and guaranteed aloofness from the mainstream of political life would enhance the dignity of his office and enable the members to look up to him and respect him as the impartial protector and guarantor of their rights and privileges.

In this connection, it has been pointed out that the Speakership in the British House of Commons is a nonpartisan position. Once a MP is elected to the office of the Speaker, he severs party connections and is expected to function impartially. If the Speaker seeks re-election to Parliament at the next general election, he stands simply as 'the Speaker' and it is usually customary for the other parties not to contest the seat.

The question as to how far the Speakers should be connected with their political parties and other related issues has, from time to time, been engaging the attention of the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India. The Conferences held in 1951 and 1953 were of the opinion that a convention should be established that the seat from which the Speaker stands for re-election should not be contested and that the Speaker should not take part in party politics. The Page Committee, appointed by the Chairman of the Conference in 1967, also considered it desirable that a convention should be established that the seat from which the Speaker stands for re-election to the House should not be contested in the election.

The last point that we will be deliberating upon pertains to the modalities of organising this Conference in the coming years. As you all would agree, for nearly eight decades, this Conference has been an important forum for all our legislative bodies for considering important issues of common concern and for evolving consensus on matters of


HYDERABAD, FROM

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed and other dignitaries at the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, Hyderabad

procedures and practices across the country. The ideas emerging out of our Conferences have contributed significantly in strengthening the foundations of parliamentary democracy in the country.

However, of late, it has been noticed that States, particularly the smaller States, do not find themselves able to readily come forward to host these Conferences for reasons like financial constraints or lack of infrastructural facilities and logistical support. We have to ensure that there is no heavy financial burden on individual States and that all States actively support and participate in the organisation and hosting of these Conferences. It will not be difficult for us to work out the modalities and patterns for the future Conferences. I am sure the necessary support and encouragement from the Executive and other agencies will always be forthcoming for the continued success of our Conferences in the years ahead.

Friends, as Presiding Officers, we should always be alert about our responsibilities towards the system at large. Our fundamental task is that of facilitating good governance through Parliament without compromising upon the democratic rights of the people, without intruding into the functions of the other organs of the government and by strictly adhering to the principle of accountability. Let us all be ever committed to this task.

I am sure the deliberations here will be very interesting and rewarding. The ideas emerging out of this Conference would definitely help in their own ways in addressing some issues of vital concern to our democratic institutions and to our society at large.

Before concluding, I would like to express our appreciation and thanks to our hostess, the Honourable Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Smt. K. Prathibha Bharathi Garu, the Honourable Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu Garu, the Honourable Deputy Speaker, Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao Garu, the Secretariat officers and everyone else involved in meticulously planning and organising this Conference and for their remarkable hospitality.

With these words, it is my pleasure to declare this Conference open.

Thank you.

2

ADDRESSES AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON "COALITION GOVERNANCE AND POLITICAL STABILITY"

A Symposium on "Coalition Governance and Political Stability" was held in Hyderabad on 1 June 2000, after the 63rd Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India. We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and the Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu at the Symposium.

—Editor

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE CHIEF MINISTER, ANDHRA PRADESH, SHRI N. CHANDRABABU NAIDU

Chairman of the Conference and Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi Garu; Co-Chairperson and Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shrimati K. Prathibha Bharati Garu, Honourable Presiding Officers of Legislative Assemblies; Secretaries-General, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, Ministers; Members of Parliament; MLAs; Distinguished Invitees, Members of Media and Friends:

I am really happy to be with you and share some ideas regarding 'Coalition Governance and Political Stability'. This is a rare opportunity for me to share some of my ideas with the Presiding Officers who are playing a very dominant role in conducting the proceedings of various Assemblies, Parliament and many policy-making bodies. In this Assembly* I always sit there, but today I got an opportunity to sit here and address, that too very important functionaries of the country. For this I am thankful to the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, Speaker, Lok Sabha.

Today's subject is very relevant and this is the opportune time to discuss this. I am happy to share with you my ideas as to what is happening in our country. It would definitely give an indication as to in which direction the country is moving now. Any way, you will discuss

* The function was held in the Assembly Chamber of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly

this subject in detail. I would like to place some of my observations and ideas through a presentation. I would like to present it in the following sequence.

- Declining single party dominance
- Rise of regional parties
- India's international experience
- Coalitions—the pros and cons
- Political reforms
- Public awareness
- Conclusion

Since Independence for quite a long time we witnessed the dominance of a single party which had a vast majority. Except for 1971 and 1984, the popularity graph of the dominant party has slowly but steadily declined. The slide shows the number of seats won by Congress in each Lok Sabha elections. In 1980—353; 1984—415; 1989—197; 1991—232; 1996—140; 1998—141; and 1999—114.

On the one hand, the Congress which was once the dominant party has started slowly diminishing in numbers. On the other hand, we see the rise of regional parties. In the Twelfth and the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, the Opposition and the ruling coalition have diverse range of regional parties supporting them. In both the Twelfth and the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, regional parties played a major role. Another important aspect is the regionalisation of a number of national parties. A number of so-called national parties, like the BSP, CPI(M), CPI, JD, Samata Party etc., are confined to certain States or areas. So, in effect they have also become regional parties. We, the regional parties, are also confined to some areas and they are also confined to some areas. Even the BJP and the Congress are confined to certain parts of the country. So, there would be coalition governments in future also.

It is because if you see the number of parties in Lok Sabha, in the First Lok Sabha, it was 22; in the Second Lok Sabha, it was 12; in the Third Lok Sabha, it was 20, and the Fourth Lok Sabha, it was 19. So, like that, it you see, in the present Lok Sabha, there are 38 political parties. If you see some of the countries like America and Britain, they are having two-party system, whereas we are having multi-party system. Naturally, when there is multi-party system, there would be some gap which some political party will have to fill. That is how the Telugu Desam Party and so many other parties have worked, Now, gradually, the number of political parties represented in the Lok Sabha has increased

from 22 in the First Lok Sabha to 38 in the Thirteenth Lok Sabha. Due to the increase in the number of political parties, there is a need for coalition government. Some political parties as well as some leaders have lost people's faith. So, somebody has to fill the gap and the regional parties are filling that gap. That is why, the number of political parties is increasing in a big way.

If we see unstable coalitions, we had different coalitions under different leaders like, late Shri Morarji Desai, late Shri Charan Singh, Shri V.P. Singh, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Deve Gowda, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee (first tenure). Every day we used to talk as to how many days this Government was going to stay. So much of unstability was there.

Sometimes, we talk about unstable coalitions *vis a vis* fall in annual GDP growth rate over the previous year. The Governments of late Morarji Desai and late Charan Singh achieved 10.5 per cent growth rate over the previous year; the V.P. Singh Government and the Chandra Shekhar Government achieved 4.7 per cent growth rate over the previous year and Shri Deve Gowda'a Government achieved 2.7 per cent growth rate over the previous year. This is one scenario.

If we go to the other scenario, the Nehru era saw the most stable single party Government at the Centre. However, during 1951-62, the average growth rate in GNP was 3.8 per cent per annum. The average growth rate during the unstable nineties has been 5.7 per cent per annum. What I am trying to emphasis here is that sometimes, the stability depends upon the economic policies and the approach of the Government. All these things are dominating the growth rate. Even the stable Governments are not able to achieve good growth rate. After 1991 economic reforms, the growth rate is increasing because of the policies of the Governments.

Here I wanted to emphasis today that even the era of 'isms' is over. Previously, we used to talk about communism, socialism and capitalism. Now, everybody is talking about economic reforms with human face. Even China is talking about economic reforms only. Even after being a Communist country, Vietnam is talking about economic reforms. We are sending delegations to China and Vietnam to learn how they are developing and what economic reforms they have implemented in their countries.

If you see China, it started economic reforms in 1978 and Vietnam started economic reforms in 1989. In 11 years' time starting from 1989 to 2000 Vietnam is doing very well. Everybody is praising them and

everybody is trying to learn from them. Even we are sending our teams there. They have undertaken economic reforms and they have done very well.

People are disillusioned with the performance of the governments. If we see, people want us to perform. They want that their grievances should be redressed. That is what they are expecting. It is because of all these things there is erosion of support for dominant parties. People are supporting those Governments which are performing and people are not supporting those Governments which are not performing. Naturally, they are losing their base and support of the masses.

Now, I want to quote a news item which appeared in BBC on 14 September 1999. It said:—

> "There are many who believe that India needs a more stable system—a government with a clear majority that can deal with important challenges rather than be distracted by the wheeling and dealing needed to maintain a viable coalition."

Today, there is degeneration of politics. In this respect, Professor Hiren Mukherjee once said:—

> "...there never was a time in living memory when politics and politicians were, almost rightfully, as denigrated, even degraded and sometimes detested, in the eyes of our people as they are at the moment."

Previously, coalitions were confined to post-electoral power sharing between parties who fought the elections on their own. Kerala is the exception where the Left Democratic Front and the United Democratic Front have been fighting each other since 1977.

As the Honourable Speaker, Shri Balayogi has rightly mentioned today, if you see, except two to three States, all other States are without coalitions. At the same time, some parties at the Centre join after elections except the recent elections during which the (NDA) had some pre-poll understanding with other parties. Upto 1996, the government was more or less homogeneous while the Opposition was fractured.

If we take into consideration the three to four years after the decline of the Congress Party, during the first election of 1991, there were three groups, three coalitions *viz.* the BJP and the allies, Congress and the United Front. After the 1998 elections, naturally, UF had some problem. If you see the recent elections, we are facing the problems. Now, NDA is clearly emerging slowly. Even the Congress is aligning with other parties. Before elections, they thought that they could get clear a ma-

jority and that they can form the government on their own. But even the Opposition parties are working in coalition. This is the reality and this is how things are moving. Even the Opposition parties are having pre-poll alliance. It is likely to become the order of the day. Even if tomorrow elections are held, there may be two coalitions and some parties may join one and some may join the other group. But finally it will be stablised. This is how things are going to happen. Even now they are working. Even if we see the world, coalition governments have been virtually the norm in continental Europe. By the mid '80s only Britain, Spain and Greece had single party majority governments. Coalitions have become as effective as single party governments. They are all developing countries. Even the government in Japan is surviving with a difference of one vote. So a majority of the countries of the world are working with coalition governments. It is the reality. This is the situation even in the developed countries.

Even if we see the economic integration in Europe, they are having coalition governments. But they are having European Common Market, Euro Currency, European Commission, etc. Therefore, we can see that all over the world everybody is working for the economic purpose rather than the political agenda to get votes in the elections as everybody has to work for the people.

As the Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha has rightly mentioned, we are having so many diversities in India. India is a very diverse country with many languages, many religions, and many cultures. Ours is a heterogeneous society. This is the difference between our country and the other countries of the world.

As regards coalition governments, people are saying that they are unstable, wheeling and dealing and that they lack consensus on vital issues like reforms. It is also said that coalitions may not work as effectively as single party government.

There are some advantages in the coalition system like accommodation of diverse interests, consensual decision-making etc. It is also participatory, where there is no room for complacency and where there is pressure to perform. A Coalition System is also more sensitive and responsive to regional concerns. There are strengths and there are weaknesses, but ultimately India has reached the stage of coalition governments. One has to live in that.

If you see Kenichi Ohmac's "The End of the Nation State", he says:—

"So long as nation states continue to view themselves as the

> essential prime movers in economic affairs, so long as they resist—in the name of national interest—any erosion of central control as a threat to sovereignty, neither they nor their people will be able to harness the full resources of the global economy."

This is more or less a reality.

Today, you see in different States different Governments which are led by either regional parties or Congress or Communist Parties or BJP. All over the world different experiments are going on. Previously it was the government of only one party and therefore only one experiment. They were looking at the Centre. Today the situation has changed. States are in competition among themselves. We are now competing with other States. My neighbouring State, Karnataka, is competing with Andhra Pradesh. The same is the case in Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra or Gujarat. Like that, States are competing among one another where experiments are going on. So many people are working in many directions. Finally we are working together and wherever there are strengths, we are following them. We are following all the successful stories adopted in different States. There is more room for innovation and experimentation and consensus is still possible.

If you see nation-wide, in different States we are having different political parties and different governments. Yet we have arrived at a consensus on so many issues of critical nature. One such consensus has been on incentives for the industry. Another is slab rate for taxation. These are all the major decisions where we have got consensus. Previously, even when a single party was ruling the nation, they never thought of it. Today we are able to get consensus among all the political parties with different ideologies.

Even it you see Malaysia, the UMNO led coalition government is there. They are having a clear majority for Prime Minister Mahahir's party. Even then they are having a coalition government. The only reason is that they want to carry everybody. They want to share power with all minor partners so that they can go in a big way for reforms. That is how they have done it. For the last 18 years they have coalition governments in Malaysia.

If you see here the basic issues now are good governance, economic reforms with a human face, decentralisation, eradication of poverty, extending basic needs and globalisation. Apart from politics, one has to tackle these even in coalition governments. The World Development Report for the year 2000-2001 (Consultation Draft) says: "Development programmes can be more effective in meeting local needs if they can

draw on the advantages of local information, local accountability and local monitoring". This is how we have to go in for decentralisation.

When we look at all these things, as our Hon. Speaker has rightly mentioned, there are two options; one is direct elections and the other is indirect elections; one is parliamentary type of democracy and the other is presidential type of democracy. We are having parliamentary type of democracy. In a presidential type of democracy there are advantages and there are disadvantages. If you go in for presidential type of democracy, you will have stability. At the same time, the administration can be paralysed by a hostile Parliament. Getting Bills and other measures passed by it would be a problem. In the case of parliamentary democracy we no doubt have instability. Everyday we are working only to give stability.

One more thing is proportional representation as our Hon. Speaker has rightly mentioned. Germany has proportional representation with a qualifying vote of five per cent of total votes cast. This is how if they get votes, on the basis of that they are given proportional representation. This system is more representative and that is an advantage. It favours national parties and eliminates small parties. But, if they get more votes, they will get more seats. In the process, some regional parties or small parties will be eliminated at the national level. If they get more votes at the State level, they will get the proportional representation. For that, they are keeping five per cent of the total votes cast.

The Law Commission has recently given some recommendations that every pre-election coalition front should be treated as a political party for the purposes of the Tenth Schedule; 25 per cent increase in strength of the Lok Sabha/State Assemblies to be filled through a List System; and no-confidence against an incumbent Prime Minister to be simultaneous with passing of confidence in a successor. Recently we have seen so much of instability for days together. If some political parties move the no-confidence motion, after it is passed, we have to call for a confidence motion in the next incumbent. It will take a lot of time. The last time, it led to the dissolution of Parliament after all other parties failed to form a government. If it comes simultaneously, then there will be no instability.

All political parties are predicting the future. Sir Winston Churchill has said long back that "political skill is the ability to foretell what is going to happen tomorrow, next week, next month, and next year. And to have the ability afterwards to explain why it did not happen." Then

only things will happen. What is going to happen tomorrow, all political parties have to foretell. Accordingly we have to prepare ourselves.

If you see the future, the coalition governments have come to stay in India. A coalition culture has been evolving slowly. If you see yesterday, the National Front (NF) and the United Front (UF) governments suffered from total instability. The two UF Governments, one led by Shri Deve Gowda and another by Shri I.K. Gujral, were not stable. After that came the BJP led NDA government which also faced instability for some time. Now what we are seeing is that everybody is trying to adjust to these things. What I want to emphasize here is that all the political parties are now learning the art of coalition. There is no other way. People are fed up with elections. One has to live with coalition and has to work with coalition. All parties have to realise that the future is for coalition. So, in future, I am very confident that coalitions can be stable. The coalition government at the Centre is the example for that.

There should be public awareness. Thomas Jefferson has said that the "quality of governance is ultimately dependent on the quality of citizenship. If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be." This is in fact a reality. As of today ultimately good governance and performance are very very important. That is how things are moving.

In conclusion, I would like to give a quotation of Theodore Roosevelt of 8 January 1940. He said: "But the future lies with those wise political leaders who realise that the great public is interested more in government than in politics."

All of us have to work towards giving good governance. Politics is only for elections. After the electrons, one has to work for the betterment of the people.

One has to prosper and eradicate poverty. That is where the politicians have to work. Even in India, coalition governments are a reality. Those who are participating in the coalition have to learn how to live with the coalition government. Then only, it will be meaningful and it will help the nation.

It is a very rare opportunity for me to share my ideas with all the Presiding Officers. As you are all aware, Hyderabad is a beautiful place and also a historical place. We are having very good spots for sight-seeing. I am confident that our Hon. Speaker, Shrimati Kavali Prathibha Bharati, has organised everything for you. Here, you see a clean and also a green city. There are so many tourist spots where you can have leisure time. I am very happy to be with you. I am confident that our

Legislative Assembly Secretariat would look after you well not only so far as accommodation is concerned but also in other aspects.

Traditionally, we are very good hosts. I am confident that our Speaker will keep that in mind. Moreover, she is a Lady Speaker. She will take more interest as compared to the male Speakers. That is another advantage. 'Biryani' and so many other things are very popular in Hyderabad. The 'Charminar' is also very popular in Hyderabad. So, you will be very happy while staying here.

With these words, I welcome all the Speakers again and again. I thank all the Speakers for giving me this opportunity.

Thank you all.

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI

Honourable Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naiduji, Honourable Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Fellow Presiding Officers, Members of Parliament and Members of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to this Symposium on "Coalition Governance and Political Stability" and share my views with you on this subject.

Coalitions are products of the political realities as they emerge in a parliamentary democracy. These may result out of the complexities of a multi-party system where a number of minority parties join hands for the purpose of running the government. Coalition governments, however, are not restricted to the developing societies only. There are quite a few countries in the developed world too, where coalitions have been working successfully for long.

As you all are aware, coalition governments emerged in India after the General Elections of 1967 in six States and since then we have seen coalition governments at the Centre as well as in the States. Starting with 1989, we have had several minority governments at the Centre, evolved either through formal coalition arrangements or at times through informal understanding. It has been argued that at the national level, instability in governments was created on several occasions not primarily on account of the failure of the coalition experiment *per se,* but mostly on account of the 'incomplete coalitions' formed as a post-election arrangement, by the force of circumstances, with the larger parties supporting the government choosing to remain outside the government, but extending support to it in Parliament. Except for the

fall of the Janata Party Government in early 1979, caused by a split in the ruling party, the subsequent fall of governments in mid 1979, 1990, 1991 and twice in 1997 was caused by the withdrawal of support by parties supporting the government from outside. In most of these cases, by the large, the coalition of parties in power remained intact. The only exception to this in the fall of the government in 1999 which was precipitated by the withdrawal of support by one of the coalition partners itself.

The reasons for coalition politics in India may be fragmentation of mainline political parties and the emergence of regional parties. Some analysts contend that our legislative institutions today represent and reflect a greater plurality of interests corresponding with the nature of our society which exhibits a great degree of socio-political pluralism. There is a viewpoint that the dynamics of present day political realities, in a way, has led to fractured electoral verdicts. It cannot, however, be said that such verdicts are the outcome of a confused electorate nor can they be attributed to any indecisiveness on the part of the voters. The Indian voters have indeed shown that their interests would be better served if all the parties remain conscious of the fact that they are an informed lot who want good governance and consensual politics, along with a certain element of stability.

India is a country which thrives in diversity—regional, ethnic, linguistic, religious and social. That being so, there is a point of view that coalitions could well be a reflection of our diversities and pluralism, which have a bearing for the concept of federalism. In such a scenario, it becomes incumbent upon political parties and leaders to determine a mechanism for accommodating the diverse interests of the nation and perhaps a coalition is one mechanism which incorporates the multiplicity of interests, ensures co-existence of various centres of solidarity and accommodates various groups. Since the common political culture reflects the sub-cultures of social diversity, it becomes a mechanism for effective governance. Proponents of such a view hold that India is too pluralistic, socially and politically, to be effectively governed by a bi-polar political system.

It has been widely held on the basis of experience that the successful working of coalitions requires the clear identification of the core of the coalition. The major partner in the coalition needs to play a major role in ensuring that the coalition rules are strictly adhered to. This would also require a strict adherence to the principle of collective responsibility by the Council of Ministers. Coalitions provide the ideal setting for a system of collective leadership, vital for the success of parliamentary democracy.

In our country, we have seen coalitions coming up either before the elections or after the elections. The pre-poll coalition is considerably advantageous because it provides a common platform to the parties in order to woo the electorate on the basis of a joint manifesto. The post-election union is intended to enable constituents to share political power and run the government.

Friends, political instability cannot by itself be the result of an unstable government. Also, there is no clearly visible link between the existence of political instability and a coalition government. As long as there is a broad political consensus and political accommodation, there is very little scope for political instability. If coalition partners pull the government in different directions, it reflects on their art of governance, and not on the stability of the system. In fact, in several cases, it is seen that a small majority in the legislature can provide greater stability because that forces the government and the coalition partners to act more responsibly. By the same analogy, a government with a large majority, too sure of its position to bother about accommodating diverse interests, could become a little less responsive in its functioning. Thus, it is possible that even when there is a small majority accommodating diverse interests and sharing in power, the government can provide political stability.

In the light of the experiences, there is a section of opinion which feels that it is imperative to introduce various electoral reforms to lend more stability to government. Various suggestions like introduction of the 'List System' on the German model to reduce the gap between the votes polled by the political parties and the seats secured by them, clear proposal for an alternative government if a no-confidence motion is carried, curbing the evil influences of muscle and money power, state funding of elections, reduction in the multiplicity of political parties, etc., to list a few, have been made.

It is increasingly felt that the reasons which were responsible for the failure of coalition governments in recent times are better understood now and these are slowly disappearing. We have a large number of parties in our polity which seek to represent a wide array of interests and opinions. Experience has taught the political parties that it is cooperation that is needed and not confrontation, if they have to successfully run a government. We do not have to look far to see how successful coalitions can be worked. The States of Kerala and West Bengal have for long been working successful coalitions. What we have to do is to try to strengthen the forces of democracy at the national level.

Friends, India has entered another stage of political evolution wherein coalition politics and coalition governments have become a reality. The other reality is that of a "hung Parliament" wherein there is no one party or alliance that could provide a stable government. If we have to remedy the situation, our political parties need to learn as to how best to organise the polity and its institutions so as to accommodate the varied diversities of the Indian reality. More importantly, political parties and leaders have to pay greater attention to the compulsions of coalition politics if a proper coalition culture has to evolve and get strengthened.

Friends, it is said, elections represent the heart-beats of democracy. If it happens to be too frequent or too irregular, democracy could collapse. Thirteen elections in the life of a 52-year-old Republic may not be warranting the pressing of alarm bells in any quarter. What we are witnessing now could well be a transitional phase of a polity like India. Several Western democracies also have gone through such uncertain phases before coming to experience high levels of political stability. For a society as diverse as ours, it may be too early to conclude that parliamentary system has failed and that it is time we considered changing our system of government in favour of other models. Man's ingenuity is yet to discover a totally crisis-proof system of governance. Each system has certain society-specific relevance, and rating the success of a certain system in a particular society cannot be taken as the criterion for its adoption in societies with different characteristics. From a one-party predominant political system to a multi-party polity, we have travelled a long way. Native realities and emerging situations, coupled with rising aspirations of the people, always influence the way the political system functions. In the unfolding scenario, the political parties will find it imperative to come to terms with the political realities of the day and adjust themselves to provide a stable government, either through coalitions or otherwise.

I am sure we will have very meaningful discussions on diverse aspects of this topical issue in the Symposium.

I would also like to take this opportunity to heartily thank the Honourable Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu Garu for agreeing to inaugurate this Symposium. I also extend my thanks to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the Honourable Speaker and the Honourable Deputy Speaker of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly and all officers and staff of the Legislature Secretariat for their cooperation in making this event a success.

Thank you.

3

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI AT THE FOURTH NORTH-EAST REGION COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The Fourth North-East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association Conference was held in Shillong, Meghalaya, from 6-8 June 2000. We reproduce below the text of the Inaugural Address delivered by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 6 June 2000 at the Conference.

—Editor

Honourable Chief Minister of Meghalaya, Shri Mawlong, Honourable Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the North-East States, Honourable Members of Parliament, Honourable Members of the Legislative Assemblies, Officers from the CPA Secretariat, Ladies and Gentlemen :

It is indeed a matter of great pleasure for me to be once again in the midst of fellow Presiding Officers representing this beautiful part of our country. Only last week we have had the opportunity to meet in Hyderabad in connection with the Presiding Officers' Conference and deliberate upon some issues of immediate relevance to our parliamentary democracy. The frequency with which the Legislatures of this region organise Conferences, Seminars, Training Programmes and other activities of legislative interest goes to prove how vibrant are democratic institutions in this part of our country.

Friends, there is a commonly shared perception about the States of the North-East that they are so far and yet so near, and so much a part of the country, yet so distinct. I am sure this is a reciprocal perception as you might say the same thing about Southern India. This is a fact of life about India—its vastness, diversities, distinctiveness, and above all, the feeling of oneness that cuts across all the elements of diversity.

Any analysis of the history of the North-Eastern region has to start with an insight into the peculiarities of this region as well as the problem of insurgency which has affected this part of the country in one way or the other. Our country, particularly the people of this region, has been paying a very heavy price for this. Mostly these insurgencies have been

caused by the lack of economic development accentuated by cross-border abetment and aid.

The particular geographical location and special characteristics of its tribal population have been recognised by the framers of the Constitution also. They introduced a special part (Part X) and two separate Schedules (the Fifth and the Sixth Schedules) to deal with the Scheduled and Tribal Areas, especially of the North-East.

Provisions have thus been made for special administrative arrangements in terms of the Scheduled Areas and the Scheduled Tribes, the Tribal Advisory Councils, the Autonomous Districts and the Autonomous Regions. The special constitutional dispensation for the North-East and the special legislations introduced for the region are also based on a pragmatic recognition of diversities amongst the people of this area. The Government of India also had all along recognised that the problems of the region need to be addressed collectively by the States of the region with the active assistance and involvement of the Centre.

Successive governments at the Centre have always been aware of the needs and aspirations of the people of the region and have responded positively to their demands of varying nature. I understand that in the recent past also several new packages for the economic development of the region have been announced by the Union Government. An upgradation package for the North-East's basic minimum services and infrastructure involving an investment of Rs. 28,000 crore in the Ninth Plan alone was announced. Another Rs. 75,000 crore has been projected for investment over the next two decades. This is over and above the projected private investment and international ventures for the region. To meet the higher education needs of the people of the North-East region, the necessary legislation to have a Central University at Aizawl, Mizoram, has been passed recently by the Parliament.

In spite of all these efforts, however, one gets an odd feeling at times, that all may not perhaps be well with the North-East still. There are even today some misguided elements within the region playing into the hands of forces opposed to the unity and integrity of India. Even some movements which began as a platform for expressing the legitimate grievances of the people of this area have today degenerated into subversive terrorism targeted often against the innocent people. There is no denying the fact that economic backwardness and the related unemployment have also contributed towards the growth of insurgency in this sensitive region. It is also a fact that insurgency has vitiated the atmosphere for development in the region.

It is, therefore, imperative for the government, the leaders, the people and their representative to make concerted efforts to bring back those influenced by the cult of violence into the mainstream of our society. Everyone involved has to realize that violence and democracy cannot co-exist. Movements which are instrumental in depriving ordinary citizens of their fundamental right to life and liberty cannot claim any place in a civilized society. What this region needs today, more than anything else, is the right atmosphere for development. The role of the Government of India is that of a facilitator. But unless the misguided elements discard violence as a means for achieving political objectives, no developmental initiatives will produce the desired results. Peace and stability are the essential prerequisites for development. Those who are playing into the hands of powers opposed to India, should realize that their intention is certainly not the good of the people of the North-East.

Those who are nurturing parochial, communal and chauvinistic sentiments should not forget that India is a land of diversities. Religious, linguistic, regional and cultural plurality is a fact of life in India. It is a basic characteristic of the Indian society which has to survive, if India as a nation is to flourish. Our plurality is best sustained under a democratic order. The Founding Fathers of our Republic had taken care to accommodate and sustain the diversities of all kinds and to address the peculiarities of each region and group in the country. They also had alerted us against the dangers of narrow vision. Appealing to the conscience of the diverse people of our country, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said in 1955, and I quote:

> We should not become parochial, narrow minded, because we have a great mission to perform.... Political integration has already taken place to some extent, but what I am after is something much deeper than that—an emotional integration of the Indian people so that we might be welded into one ....maintaining at the same time all our wonderful diversity. I do not want this diversity to be regimented and taken away, but we must be wary of losing ourselves in petty quarrels....

The basic test-case for emotional integration is the sense of belonging its people demonstrate towards the country at large. It goes to the credit of the leaders and the people of the region that in spite of the best efforts of divisive elements, the people of the North-East have defeated such elements and have consistently reaffirmed their commitment to the country.

Friends, national unity should indeed be the foundation of our strength. In such a united nation, each of the diverse elements that constitutes

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COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY
ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

our society, be it the ethnic groups from the hills of the North-East or the various socio-religious and linguistic sections from the North and the South, has a distinct role to play. And the ultimate success of our collective nation-building efforts would depend on the unity of purpose we all are able to demonstrate in this endeavour.

Friends, the forum of the North-East Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (NERCPA) provides a unique opportunity to the legislators of the North-East where they can address the various issues of the region. Through coordinated efforts, they can contribute to the development of the region and help in bringing about peace and prosperity. Necessarily, they can reduce the emotional distance of the region with the rest of the country. The NERCPA, as the legislative fraternity of this strategically and cohesive vital region of India, can go a long way in forging cooperation and understanding amongst the States for the integrated development of the North-East. In this direction, the Institute of Parliamentary Studies, Training and Research which has been established at Guwahati by the legislators belonging to the North-East Region, will go a long way to educate and motivate the legislators and the youth in the virtues and merits of parliamentary democracy.

I am sure Conferences like this will contribute in their own ways towards sustaining that sense of belonging, cutting across all elements of diversities that our country is known for. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) and all the branches of the CPA in this region for their initiatives in organising this Conference.

With these words, it is my pleasure to declare this Conference open.

Thank you.

4

THE PARLIAMENT ESTATE

G.C. MALHOTRA

In a democratic system, Parliament is the people's institution which symbolizes their sovereign power and represents their collective will. It is, therefore, imperative that such an institution is housed in a building which would lend grandeur and grace to all those who walk into its portals. The Parliament House, one of the most magnificent buildings in the country, is one such building that provides the ideal accommodation for the Indian Parliament.

The original plan for New Delhi, prepared in 1911, had not provided for a Legislature building. It was only after the First World War and the introduction of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms that the decision to build a Council House (the present Parliament House) was taken. After long deliberations, a circular design for the Legislature building was approved in 1919. Its foundation stone was laid on 12 February 1921 by the Duke of Connaught. While India's new capital city was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, Sir Herbert Baker was responsible for designing the Parliament House. These two renowned British architects were responsible also for the planning and construction of India's capital city. The construction of the building took six years and was executed by the Central Public Works Department (CPWD) under the supervision of Chief Engineers, Sir Hugh Keeling and Sir Alexander Rouse. The cost of its construction, at that time, was Rs. 83 lakh.

The opening ceremony of the Parliament House – the then Council House–was performed on 18 January 1927 by the then Governor-General of India, Lord Irwin. The Third Central Legislative Assembly was the first to meet in this historic building on 19 January 1927. Prior to this, the Central Legislative Assembly and its predecessor, *i.e.*, the Legislative Council used to meet in the Old Secretariat building which now houses the present Delhi Legislative Assembly. (The Legislative Council first met in Delhi in that building on 27 January 1913. Before that, the Council used to meet at the Government House in Calcutta.)

At present, the Parliament Estate mainly comprises the Parliament House, Reception Office Building and Parliament House Annexe. A new

Parliament Library—a state-of-the-art building—is under construction between Parliament House and Parliament House Annexe buildings. The entire Estate is enclosed by an ornamental red sand stone wall and iron grills with iron gates.

The Parliament House

The Parliament House is a massive circular edifice 170.69 meters (560 feet) in diameter. Its circumference is one-third of a mile, *i.e.*, 536.33 meters and it covers an area of nearly six acres (24,281.16 square meters). With its unique circular shape, the building stands out prominently amidst several other government buildings which have come up during the past few decades. The continuous open *verandah* on the first floor of the Parliament building is fringed with a colonnade of 144 creamy sandstone columns, each 8.23 meters (27 feet) high, which lend a unique grace and charm to the building. The entire building was built with indigenous material and by Indian labour. As the architects and engineers were inspired by the traditional Indian art and architecture while designing the Parliament House, the architecture of the building bears a close imprint of the Indian tradition. The lay-out of fountains, both inside and outside the building, the use of Indian symbols, the *chhajjas* (projections) which shade the walls and windows and the varied forms of *Jali* (mesh) in marble, stone and wood are reminders of Indian craftsmanship displayed in ancient monuments and memorials. The building has as many as twelve gates, five of them adorned with magnificent porches.

The centre and attraction of the building is the massive circular edifice of the Central Hall. On the three axes, radiating from this Centre are placed the three chambers of the Lok Sabha, the Rajya Sabha and the Library Hall and in between them lie the garden courts. Surrounding these three Chambers is a four-storeyed circular structure providing office accommodation for Presiding Officers, Prime Minister, Ministers, Leaders of Opposition in both the Houses, Chairmen of Parliamentary Committees, Party Offices, important offices of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Secretariats, Doordarshan Studio, Parliament Library, Refreshment Rooms and also the offices of the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. Three Committee rooms on the first floor are used for holding meetings of Parliamentary Committees. Three other rooms on the same floor are used by press correspondents who come to the Press Galleries of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha.

The Central Hall

In the history of free India, the Central Hall has a great significance.

It was in this Hall that the historic transfer of power from the British to Indian hands took place on the midnight of 14-15 August 1947 and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru delivered his historic speech on India's *Tryst with Destiny*. The Constituent Assembly met in this very Hall from 9 December 1946 to 26 November 1949 to frame our Constitution. Subsequently, the Constitution of India was also adopted in this historic Hall. (Prior to this, parts of the Central Hall were used as the Library of the Central Legislative Assembly and the then Council of State.)

The Central Hall, known so from its location at the Centre of the Parliament House, is surrounded by three Chambers and three well laid-out Courtyards with lush green lawns and fountains. The Hall is circular in shape and its dome, measuring 29.9 meters (98 feet) in diameter and 36 meters (118 feet) in height, is considered to be one of the most magnificent domes in the world.

An impressive dais is one of the central attractions of the Central Hall. In the arch, overlooking the dais, is a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation. In the arches on the right and left side of the dais are the portraits of Shri C. Rajagopalachari and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Besides, there are twenty gilt-edged rectangular picture frames provided in the wooden panelling of the Hall, containing portraits of national leaders. These panels display the portraits of Lokmanya Balgangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Pandit Motilal Nehru, Smt. Indira Gandhi, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Shri Morarji Desai, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Smt. Sarojini Naidu, Chaudhary Charan Singh, Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Rammanohar Lohia, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, and Dadabhai Naoroji. There are 12 gilded emblems on the walls of the Hall representing the 12 provinces of undivided India. Short passages radiating from equidistant points on the circumference of the Central Hall connect the Hall with the Lok Sabha Chamber, the Rajya Sabha Chamber and the Library Hall.

At present, the Central Hall is utilized for the Address by the President of India to members of both the Houses of Parliament assembled together and for holding Joint Sittings of the two Houses of Parliament. It is also used for some special occasions like Addresses by distinguished Heads of State/Government of foreign countries to members of Parliament. The Central Hall has six galleries on its first floor where distinguished guests, press correspondents, etc. are seated on such occasions. Surrounding the Hall are six lobbies which are suitably covered and furnished. The Hall is also equipped with the Simultaneous Interpretation System.

The Lok Sabha Chamber

The Chamber of the Lok Sabha is of a horse-shoe shape. The Chair of the Speaker with a canopy overhead is on a dais in the centre of the straight line connecting the two ends of the horse-shoe. On the wooden panel just above the Speaker's Chair is installed an electrically lit motto in Sanskrit – धर्म चक्रप्रवर्तनाय। Rendered in English, the motto means *for the rotation of the wheel of righteousness.* The path of righteousness is the ideal to which the rulers of India since ancient times have dedicated themselves and the wheel which is symbolic of this path finds a prominent place in the National Flag and the Emblem of India as well.

Overlooking the Chamber and fixed on the wood-work opposite to the Speaker's Chair is a portrait of Shri Vithalbhai Patel, the first elected President of the Central Legislative Assembly, who fought fearlessly with the then Government to establish high parliamentary traditions and to assert the complete independence of the Chair.

To the right of the Chair is located the Official Gallery meant for the use of the officials required to be present in attendance on Ministers in connection with the business of the House. To the left of the Chair is the Special Box reserved for members of the family and guests of the President, Governors of States, Presidents and Prime Ministers of foreign countries and other high personages, all in the discretion of the Speaker. In the pit of the Chamber just below the Speaker's Chair is the seat of the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha. In front of him is the Table of the House on which papers are formally laid by Ministers. Officers of the Secretariat and Official Reporters sit at this Table.

The Lok Sabha Chamber has a floor area of about 446 square meters (about 4,800 square feet) with a seating capacity of 550. Seats are divided into six blocks, each with 11 rows. Block No. 1 on the right-hand side of the Speaker's Chair and Block No. 6 on the left-hand side have 97 seats each. The remaining four blocks have 89 seats each.

A seat is allotted to each member of the House, including Ministers. The seats on the right-hand side of the Speaker's Chair are occupied by members of the Ruling Party and those on the left-hand side belong to the Opposition Parties and Groups. The Prime Minister occupies the first front row seat on the right-hand side of the Speaker's Chair while the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha occupies the first front row seat on its left-hand side.

In the wood-work around the Lok Sabha Chamber, there are 35 gilded designs representing the various Provinces of undivided India, the Dominions and certain other British Settlements. Just behind the

Speaker's Chair is a wooden door which opens into the Speaker's Chamber. In the first floor of the Lok Sabha Chamber are located the various Public Galleries and the Press Gallery. The Press Gallery is just above the Speaker's Chair and to its left are situated the Speaker's Gallery (meant for the guests of the Speaker), the Rajya Sabha Gallery (meant for members of the Rajya Sabha) and the Special Gallery. The Public Gallery is in front of the Press Gallery. To the right of the Press Gallery are situated the Distinguished Visitors' and the Diplomatic Galleries.

Adjoining the Chamber and co-terminus with it are two covered corridors called the Inner and Outer Lobbies. These Lobbies are well furnished so that members can sit and have informal discussions among themselves. The floor covering, upholstery and furnishing of the Chamber and its adjoining Lobbies are of green colour.

The Lok Sabha Chamber is provided with a Computer-controlled Integrated System comprising three sub-systems, *viz.* Microphone Management System, Simultaneous Interpretation System and Automatic Vote Recording System. Each seat has been provided with an individual goose-neck microphone and a pushbutton. Also, each seat has been provided with a language-selector switch, volume-control knob, head-phone and vote-initiation switch. Powerful microphones are also placed in selected positions as back up. Small loud speakers are provided in the Galleries.

The Interpretation System is designed to interpret the proceedings of the House simultaneously from English into Hindi and *vice versa* and from Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Oriya, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu into English and Hindi.

The Rajya Sabha Chamber

The Rajya Sabha Chamber is also semi-circular in horse-shc shape. The Chair of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha is placed at a higher elevation right at the centre of the dais connecting the diameter of two ends of the semi-circle. Just above the Chairman's Chair, there is the inscription "धर्म चक्रप्रवर्तनाय". Also inscribed on the Chairman's Chair are the noble words, "Heavens Light our Guide".

The Chamber, with a seating capacity of 250, is almost on the same pattern as that of the Lok Sabha Chamber but smaller in size. The seats in the Chamber are divided into six blocks each with seven rows. It is also equipped with modern sound equipment, Automatic Vote Recording and the Simultaneous Interpretation System.

The Public Gallery, the Distinguished Visitors' Gallery, the Diplomatic

Gallery, the Chairman's Gallery, the Press Gallery and the Gallery for Members of the Lok Sabha are all located on the first floor of the Rajya Sabha Chamber as in the case of the Lok Sabha Chamber. The Maroon colour of the floor coverings, upholstery and furnishings distinguishes the Rajya Sabha Chamber and its adjoining Lobbies from that of the Lok Sabha's green colour.

The Parliament Library

The Parliament Library is located on the ground floor in the Library Hall, in the rooms adjoining it and in a number of rooms on the first floor of the Parliament building. This Hall was originally constructed to serve as a Conference Hall for the rulers of the various States of undivided India and used to be called the "Princes' Chamber". After Independence, it was temporarily used as a Court Room by the Supreme Court. With the shifting of the Supreme Court to its own building, the design of the Chamber was slightly altered and it now serves as the Library Hall.

A large number of journals and newspapers are kept on well arranged reading tables in the Hall. On the wooden panelling of the Hall, there are 102 emblems representing the erstwhile Indian States. Reports of the Government Departments, Debates of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, Statutes and various other publications are available for reference by members in the Ground Floor Library.

The Library on the first floor stacks books on a wide range of subjects. The English and Hindi versions of the original calligraphed Constitution of India, signed by the members of the Constituent Assembly, duly decorated, illuminated and bound, have been preserved in two separate nitrogen filled receptacles in the Parliament Library. These receptacles were specially manufactured by the Getty Conservation Institute, USA with the help of the National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi.

Busts, Statues and Portraits in Parliament Complex

The Parliament House has been witness to the evolution of our parliamentary democracy. Its precincts have statues, busts and portraits of stalwarts from our history. Immediately opposite Gate No. 1 of Parliament House is installed a 16-feet high bronze statue of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, in a meditating posture. Other national leaders whose statues and busts have been installed at various places such as lawns, courtyards and entrance halls of the Lobbies of the Lok Sabha Chamber are: Pandit Motilal Nehru, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Birsa Munda (in the lawns outside the building), Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Vallabhabhai J. Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (inside lawns near

main gate) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Smt. Indira Gandhi (inside lawns near the Prime Minister's gate, Sarvashree K. Kamaraj, G.B. Pant, Y.B. Chavan, Jagjivan Ram, *Andhra Kesri* Shri Tangaturi Prakasam, Prof. N.G. Ranga and Pandit Ravi Shankar Shukla (near the Lok Sabha Chamber). In addition to this, the busts of Chandragupta Maurya, Shri Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Shri Aurobindo Ghosh are also installed at different places in the lawns opposite Gate No.1 and Gate No. 5 inside the building.

A number of portraits of former Presiding Officers adorn the Chambers of the two Houses and their inner lobbies. A portrait of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan adorns the Chamber of the Rajya Sabha. Besides, there are portraits of the following former Chairmen of the Rajya Sabha in its inner Lobby: Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, Dr. Zakir Husain and Sarvashree V.V. Giri, G.S. Pathak, B.D. Jatti, M. Hidayatullah, R. Venkataraman and Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma.

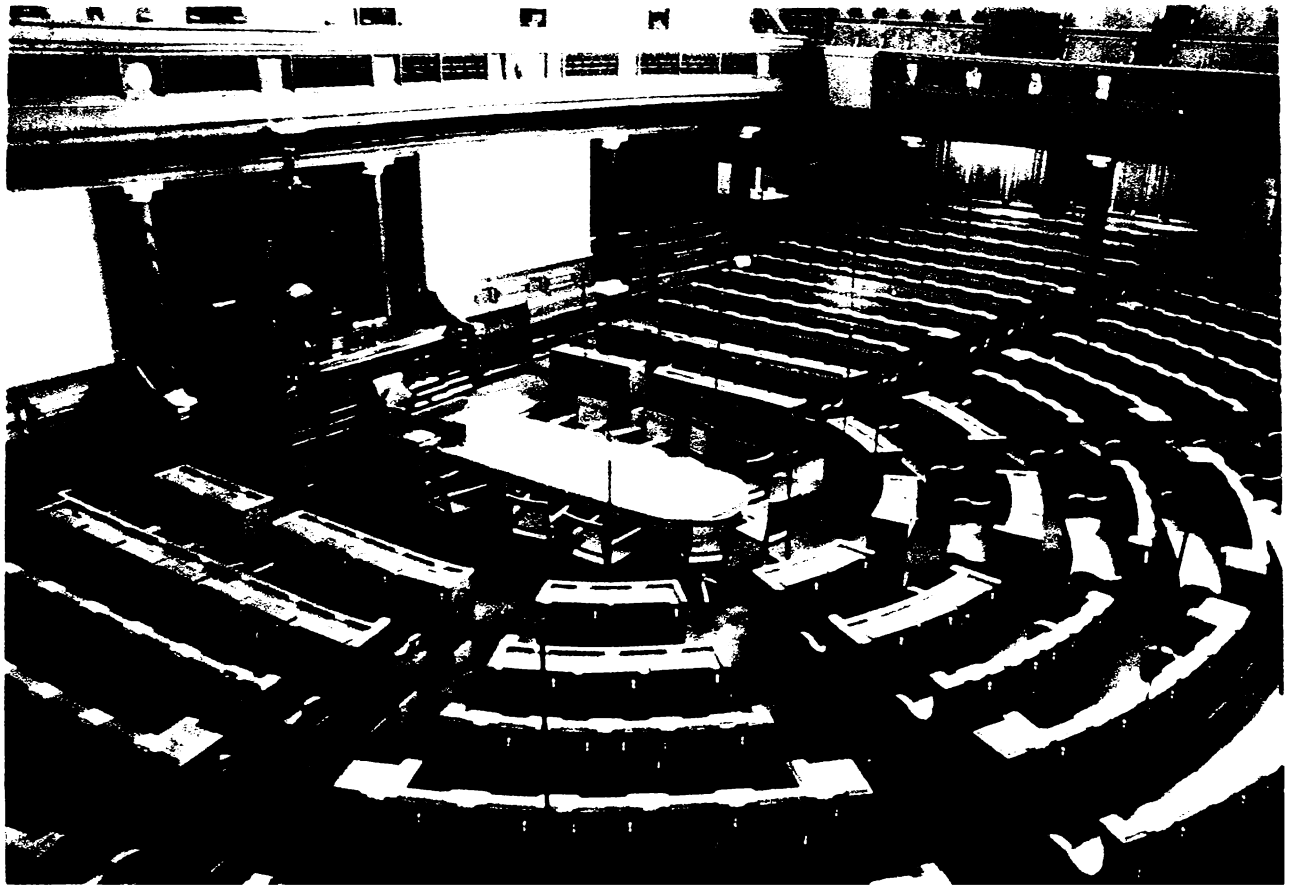
As already mentioned, a portrait of Shri Vithalbhai Patel is fixed on the woodwork opposite to the Speaker's Chair in the Lok Sabha Chamber. The Inner Lobby of the Lok Sabha Chamber has portraits of the following former Presidents of the Central Legislative Assembly: Sir Frederick Whyte, Shri Vithalbhai Patel, Sir Muhammad Yakub, Sir Ibrahim Rahimtoola, Shri R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, Sir Abdur Rahim and Shri G.V. Mavalankar. Besides, portraits of several other prominent leaders adorn the Parliament House Committee rooms and the Parliamentary Museum and Archives.

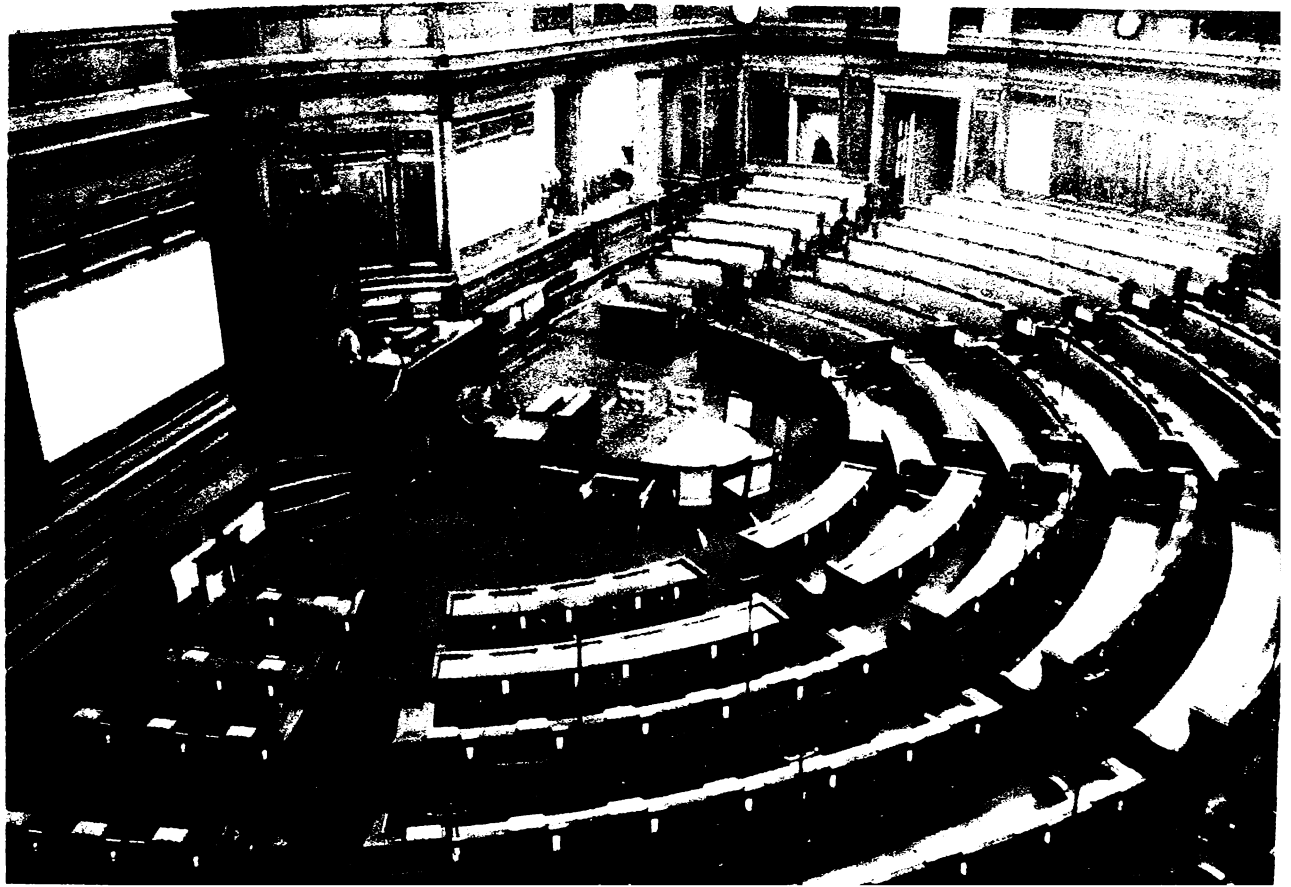
Mural Paintings

As one enters the Parliament House, the first thing to catch the eye are the beautiful paintings adorning the walls of the outer circular corridor on the Ground Floor. These paintings – fifty-eight in number and all executed by well-known artists, depict scenes from the long and chequered history of India right from the Vedic period down to the British era, culminating in the attainment of Independence in 1947. Keeping in view the long established traditions of decorating public places and temples with paintings and murals, the architects of modern India too thought it fit to decorate the Parliament House – the modern temple of democracy – with paintings depicting great moments in the history of the country.

Inscriptions

Passages of noble words have been inscribed on the walls and ceilings of the Parliament Building at several places which serve as the guiding spirit for the deliberations in the two Houses. For example, at





the very entrance of the building, the following Sanskrit quotation reminds one of the sovereignty of the nation of which Parliament is the visible symbol.

लोक३क द्वारापावा३र्णू ३३
पश्येा त्वां वयं वैरा ३३३३
(हुं ३ आ) ३३ ज्या ३ यो
३ आ ३२११२ इति।

The English equivalent of the same is:
"Open the door to the people
And let us see thee
For the obtaining of the
sovereignty".

Similarly, at the dome over the passage from the Lobby of the Lok Sabha to the Central Hall is inscribed the following Arabic quotation which says that it is the people themselves who can share and mould their destiny.

इन्नलाही ला युगय्यरो मा बिकौमिन्।
हत्ता युगय्यरो वा बिन नफसे हुम॥

The English meaning of the above is:
"Almighty God will not change the condition of any
people unless they bring about a change themselves".

The Reception Office

As the old Reception area, housed in a temporary structure, was found to be too inadequate for the growing rush of visitors and increase in parliamentary activities, a new circular Reception Office building was constructed in the Parliament House complex. The building was opened on 25 March 1975. While designing the new building, the objective was also to open up the view of the Parliament House from the Eastern side. In order to blend and harmonise the new building aesthetically with the natural surroundings, the electric sub-station too was provided with an identical circular building having conical shell roofs insofar as its exterior design goes. The size of the Reception Building and Electrical Sub-station is 2,722 square meters and 2,555 square meters, respectively, built at a cost of Rs. 15 lakh and Rs. 17 lakh (including Air Conditioning System). The building was designed by the Chief Architect, Shri J.M. Benjamin.

The central 14.02 meters portion of the Reception Office is an inverted cone on a single tapering column like a fountain and the remaining portion is an independent conical shell supported on a ring beam held

by twelve columns. The structure combines the values of both the old and the new forms of architecture. In keeping with the colour of the stone used for the main Parliament House, the outer shell of the Reception Office is finished in red sandstone and the interior has been given wooden lining which radiates a feeling of warmth and welcome. Fully air-conditioned, the Reception Office is fitted with a public address system for announcements by the Reception Office Staff. The split level system, introduced to increase the functional utility and to break the structural monotony, provides for a cafeteria on a raised level and a lounge on the lower level. Both portions form part of the Railway Canteen.

Parliament House Annexe

The Parliament House was originally constructed to meet the requirements of a Legislature which was, at that time, much smaller than what it is today and whose range of activities was also thus limited. With the manifold increase in the activities of Parliament after Independence, the available accommodation in Parliament House became too inadequate to meet the growing demand for parliamentary work. To meet this increasing demand for additional accommodation, the construction of a new building was considered more feasible since any additions or alterations to the main Parliament House would have affected its unique architectural style and layout.

A new Parliament House Annexe – the *Sansadiya Soudh* – to the north of Parliament House, was accordingly designed and constructed by architects and engineers of the C.P.W.D. The building was designed by Chief Architect, Shri J.M. Benjamin and Senior Architect, Shri K.R. Jani and the work executed under the supervision of Chief Engineer, Shri O.P. Mittal. The Foundation Stone of the building was laid on 3 August 1970 by Shri V.V. Giri, the then President of India. The building was formally inaugurated on 24 October 1975 by the then Prime Minister of India, Smt. Indira Gandhi.

The Parliament House Annexe was designed with emphasis on economy, simplicity and functional utility. The new building, without disturbing the identity of the main Parliament House, sought to bridge the gap between the traditional and the modern. Thus, the architecture radiates a new sense of aesthetics and a message of peace with its beautiful facade of mosaic *Jali* reminiscent of *Buddhist Chaitya Arches.* The complex provisions required to be made in a Legislature building have been fused in this modern structure which consists of a central 7-storeyed rectangular block rising above a 3-storeyed block in front and a 3-storeyed block at the rear. A plaza paved with red and white sandstone

in traditional Indian pattern with a grassy plot forms a podium for the building. The slender double-height free standing RCC columns in front of the mosaic *jali,* which support a projected roof above the podium, add a touch of grandeur to the entire structure. Ceramic and fire-brick tiles on the facade of the building lend a pleasing colour scheme and texture, besides giving a permanent finish requiring minimum maintenance. The building is located on a plot of 3.85 hectares (9.8 acres) with total floor area of 35,400 sq.mts. The total cost of the project at the time of construction was about Rs. 3.70 crore.

At the basement level of the Annexe, a spacious lounge has been laid out around a water pool. The central staircase, visually floating on the water pool, connects the basement with the ground and the first floors. There is one small Committee Room at the basement. At the ground level, there is one Main Committee Room and four other Committee Rooms which are grouped around the central court. On the first floor, there is another Committee Room. All the Committee Rooms are provided with simultaneous interpretation system as is available in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha Chambers in Parliament House. The Offices of the Prime Minister, the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Chairmen of Parliamentary Committees are also located on this floor. Apart from this, the ground floor has a Banquet Hall, a Private Dining Room and a multi-purpose room and an Auditorium. The rest of the floors of the Annexe accommodate the offices of the two Secretariats of Parliament.

The office of the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training is located on the sixth floor. It has a large Lecture Room, a Lounge and various rooms for the officers. The Parliamentary Museum and Archives is also housed in the Annexe.

Special amenities to Members in Parliament Complex

For the convenience of members of Parliament, various amenities such as Refreshment Rooms, Branches of the State Bank of India, Post Office, a fully equipped Medical Centre, Railway Booking office, Air-booking office, Income-Tax Cell, etc. have been provided in the Parliament Estate.

New Parliament Library Building

In order to cater to the information needs of members, a state-of-the-art Parliament Library Building named *Sansadiya Gyanpeeth* is being constructed by the CPWD in the Parliament Estate. It is conceptualised and designed by Shri Raj Rewal, a leading Indian architect. The building is estimated to cost Rs.191 crore and as per the plan, the total plinth

area of the new Parliament Library building is 55,000 square meters, including 8000 square meters for parking.

Keeping in view the landscape of the Parliament House Complex, the building would have four floors comprising one floor above ground level and two basements. Like in Parliament House building, three courtyards are planned in the Library building too to help to create a dust free atmosphere and reduce the temperature during summer. Out of the three courtyards, one is proposed to have a sunken garden. The Library building, planned in a square pattern, will have eleven round-shaped independent and self-contained blocks – seven blocks on the outer periphery and four in the inner circle. Apart from the architectural features of glazed crystalline forms, the height of the Library building has been restricted to the podium level of the Parliament House with a view to preserving the beauty and grandeur of the original building. The Library building is also being provided a red stone cladding to match with that of the Parliament House. Besides, it is proposed to make extensive use of glass in the new building. A glass brick dome above the central activity area has been proposed to provide diffused natural light up to the basement levels.

The new Parliament Library building, comprising seven outer and four inner blocks, will, apart from the Library collections, house the Research and Information Service, the Parliamentary Museum and Archives, Audio-Visual Unit, Press and Public Relations Wing, Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training, Computer Centre, administrative areas, etc. The basements will be utilised for stacking of books/publications, storage and infrastructure service requirements.

The plan suggests an ideal, intelligent, utilitarian and centrally air-conditioned building with provision for all the facilities of a modern library, *viz.* audio-visual aids, CCTV network, media centre, conservation laboratory, archival room and an auditorium with a seating capacity of over 1100. The modern trend of having a modular and utilitarian building is being followed in the construction and the building shall have a minimum of permanent structure and be divided into standardised interior units by means of suitable partitions and furniture for reading room space, book stack space, professional work space and office space. Being fully air-conditioned, the building would secure a quiet environment inside, insulated from outside noise. Multi-media facilities are also proposed to be provided at the reading tables in the two reading rooms for members of Parliament. There will also be sufficient number of cubicles fully equipped with audio and video facilities and personal computers.

The new Parliament Library building is conceived on a formal structure within the rich Indian architectural tradition. It is conceived by the architect as "having connotations of an inward looking building reflecting a specific preference for subtle special enclosures than forms of grandeur". The architect has aimed at seeking a low key architectural expression signifying sagacity and spiritual elegance. The building, built in contemporary environment, would have the ethos of planning ideals from the temples of Raunakpur and Datia and the Taj Mahal. The Parliament Library building with its interior decoration and services is slated for completion and handing over by 15 August 2001 and is all set to be an architectural marvel of the new millennium, adding to the grandeur and elegance of the Parliament Complex.

5

UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF *ANDHRA KESARI* SHRI TANGUTURI PRAKASAM PANTHULU

LARRDIS*

Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu was one of the outstanding leaders in the nation's socio-political firmament. A multi-faceted personality, he was a valiant freedom fighter, eminent parliamentarian, erudite scholar and able administrator. By his limitless courage, infinite wisdom and inimitable pragmatism, he endeared himself to the people of the country. As a Minister in the Congress Government which came to power in the composite Madras State in 1937, and, later, as the Chief Minister of this composite State, he pioneered a spate of revolutionary reforms inspired by the Gandhian constructive programmes. Shri Prakasam was also a great champion of the cause of a separate State of Andhra, a dream which was realized in due course. As the first Chief Minister of Andhra, Shri Prakasam established an efficient, responsive, transparent and people-friendly administration.

On 5 May 2000, a statue of *Andhra Kesari* Shri Tanguturi Prakasam Panthulu was unveiled in the precincts of Parliament House by the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan. The statue of Shri T. Prakasam, sculpted by the eminent sculptor, D. Sankar and Brothers and made of bronze, is 7'8" in height and is placed on a 9" platform. The statue was donated by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The ceremony was attended by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Manmohan Singh; and Members of Parliament and other eminent personalities.

To mark the occasion, the Lok Sabha Secretariat also brought out a publication titled '*Andhra Kesari* Tanguturi Prakasam' which carried messages from several dignitaries, a profile of Shri Prakasam, his views on various aspects of our national life and some select photographs.

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* Parliament Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service

1872-1957
1872 - 1957

Exhibition On

"Life and Times of Andhra Kesari Tanguturi Prakasam"

The day-long Exhibition titled "Life and Times of *Andhra Kesari* Tanguturi Prakasam" depicted the life and times of Shri Prakasam with the help of photographs, sketches, poems, write-ups and press headlines. It particularly highlighted the role played by Shri Prakasam as Chief Minister of the composite Madras Province and later as the first Chief Minister of Andhra.

The panorama of exhibits included an oil painting of Shri Prakasam by Shri S.N. Chamkur and photographs of his early life, education and family. One of the exhibits depicted Shri Prakasam baring his chest to the British police during the anti-Simon Commission agitation in 1928 daring them to shoot at him.

The exhibits further traced the role played by Shri Prakasam in the Constituent Assembly and in evolving the Panchayati Raj institutions for enriching the age-old democratic set-up in India. The Exhibition also displayed the views of Shri Prakasam in the form of quotations from his speeches in the Constituent Assembly on varied subjects.

The Exhibition was set up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA) in collaboration with the Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP), National Archives, and the Prakasam Institute of Development Studies, Hyderabad.

6

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

103rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference: The 103rd Inter-Parliamentary Conference was held in Amman (Jordan) from 30 April to 5 May 2000. The Indian Delegation to the Conference was led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri Amar Roy Pradhan, Sharad Pawar, E. Ahamed, K. Yerrannaidu, A.P. Jithender Reddy, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, Dr. M.N. Das, Dr. Mahesh Chandra Sharma, Smt. Krishna Bose and Smt. Margaret Alva, all members of Parliament and Shri G.C. Malhotra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. Shri R.C. Ahuja, Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Conference mainly discussed and adopted Declarations/ Resolutions on the following subjects.

(i) Achieving Peace, Stability and Comprehensive Development in the World and Forging Closer Political, Economic and Cultural ties among peoples;

(ii) Dialogue among Civilizations and Cultures; and

(iii) Support of Parliaments for the Rights of Refugees and Persons Displaced by War and Occupation, and Assistance with a view to their Repatriation, and for International Cooperation to develop and implement strategies to combat the criminal activities of people-smuggling.

Besides, the Conference held the General Debate on the political, economic and social situation in the world, in which 125 speakers from 110 delegations took part.

Smt. Margaret Alva, MP and one of the Indian Delegates to the above Conference was elected as Regional Representative of the Coordinating Committee of the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians from the Asia-Pacific Region.

Third International Forum on Parliaments and Local Authorities: Tourism Policy-Makers in the 21st Century: The Third International Forum on "Parliaments and Local Authorities: Tourism Policy-Makers in the 21st Century" was held in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) from 15 to

16 May 2000. The Conference was organised by the World Tourism Organisation (WTO) in conjunction with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

The Indian Delegation to the above Conference was led by the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri A.C. Jos, Satishchandra Sitaram Pradhan, G. Rama Mohan, Shripad Yasso Naik, Ravi Prakash Verma, Md. Salim, Prof. (Smt.) A.K. Premajam, Smt. Sheela Gautam and Smt. Jayanthi Natarajan, all members of Parliament. Shri P.D.T. Achary, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The Conference mainly discussed the following subjects:

(i) The Impact of the Information Age on Tourism;

(ii) The Economic Impacts of Tourism;

(iii) Tourism Policy Makings;

(iv) Measuring and Marketing of Tourism; and

(v) A Global Code of Ethics for Tourism.

The Indian Delegation at the above Conference made a very forceful intervention in respect of the 'Global Code of Ethics' and called upon individual nations to abide by the general principles as propounded in the Global Code of Ethics so that tourism as a vital sector enables the bringing together of peoples and nations.

"Beijing+5" Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations : The "Beijing+5" Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations was held in New York from 5 to 9 June 2000 to review the implementation of the 'Beijing Declaration' and 'Platform for Action' and determine further action to be taken for overcoming obstacles to its implementation.

On this Special Occasion, the IPU also organised a consultation among members of Parliament, representatives of Governments and representatives of the United Nations System on the theme "Democracy through Partnership between Men and Women" at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 7 June 2000.

The members of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to the above Conference were: Km. Mayawati, Smt. Phoolan Devi, Smt. Saroj Dubey, Dr. (Mrs.) V. Saroja, Dr. (Ms.) P. Selvie Das, Ms. Mabel Rebello and Dr. (Smt.) Rajeswaramma Vukkala, all members of Parliament. Shri Harnam Singh, Joint Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

The members of the Delegation also attended a meeting organised by the IPU on 7 June 2000, where the participants exchanged views on the issues broached by the Special Session focusing on the specific contribution that Parliaments can make towards ensuring an effective and more concerted follow-up to the Beijing process.

63rd Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India: The 63rd Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India was held in Hyderabad from 30 to 31 May 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha and Chairman of the Conference, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi* presided over the Conference. At the outset, Shri Balayogi proposed that the Speaker, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Smt. K. Prathibha Bharati, be elected as Co-Chairperson of the Conference. The proposal was agreed to. The Conference, hosted by the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly was attended by almost all the Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies in India. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed also attended the Conference.

The Conference discussed the following items on the Agenda:

(i) Issues Arising out of the so-called Dual Membership of Parliament and/or State Legislatures;

(ii) Relationship between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary;

(iii) Office of the Speaker in Multi-Party System; and

(iv) Proposals regarding future pattern of Presiding Officers' Conference.

Symposium on "Coalition Governance and Political Stability": The Conference of Presiding Officers was followed by a Symposium on "Coalition Governance and Political Stability" on 1 June 2000. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated the Symposium and also made a presentation on the Subject. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi presided over the Symposium and delivered the Opening Address**. The Presiding Officers of the Legislative Bodies in India, members of Parliament and members of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly participated in the Symposium.

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* For the text of the Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, at the opening of the conference *see The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLVI, No. 3, September 2000, pp. 376

** For the text of the Address by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, *see The Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLVI, No. 3, September 2000, pp. 376

Conference of Secretaries: The Conference of Presiding Officers was preceded by the Forty-third Conference of the Secretaries of Legislative Bodies in India. The Conference was held in Hyderabad on 29 May 2000. The Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri K. Tuljanand Singh delivered the Welcome Address. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra and the Secretary General, Rajya Sabha, Shri R.C. Tripathi addressed the Conference. The Secretaries of almost all the State/Union territory Legislatures attended the Conference.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibitions organised by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives (PMA): On 30 May 2000, an Exhibition on "Indian Parliamentary Democracy: A Success Story", organised by the PMA on the occasion of the Conference of Presiding Officers of Legislative Bodies in India, was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi at the New Assembly Building of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly in Hyderabad.

The Exhibition portrayed a view of the success story of Indian parliamentary democracy and was divided into ten Sections. The exhibits included photographs, write-ups, diagrams, charts, press headlines and quotations on the dynamic and successful functioning of the parliamentary system in the country.

On 5 May 2000, a day-long Exhibition titled "Life and Times of *Andhra Kesari* Tanguturi Prakasam" was organised on the occasion of the unveiling of the statue of the veteran freedom fighter Shri Tanguturi Prakasam in the Parliament House. The Exhibition was set up by the PMA in collaboration with the Directorate of Audio Visual Publicity (DAVP), National Archives, and the Prakasam Institute of Development Studies, Hyderabad.

The Exhibition depicted the life and times of Shri Prakasam with the help of photographs, sketches, poems, write-ups and press headlines. Amongst the distinguished visitors to the Exhibition were the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan; the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; Union Ministers; the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Chandrababu Naidu; members of Parliament and other personalities.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of those national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organised under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat are also brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 April to 30 June 2000.

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, a function was held on 14 April 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Governor of Haryana, Shri Mahavir Prasad; members of Parliament; and former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Dr. Ambedkar.

Pandit Motilal Nehru: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Pt. Motilal Nehru, a function was held on 6 May 2000. Members of Parliament, former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to Pt. Motilal Nehru.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, a function was held on 8 May 2000. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla; members of Parliament, former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes to the Gurudev.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS VISITING INDIA

South Asia Delegation of the European Parliament : On our invitation, a 12-member South Asia Delegation of the European Parliament, led by the Chairman of the South Asia Delegation of the European Parliament, Mr. Gerard Collins, visited India from 16 to 20 April 2000. On 17 April 2000, the Delegation called on the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi and also had a meeting with the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed hosted a dinner in honour of the Delegation on 17 April 2000.

On 18 April 2000, the Delegation had a meeting with the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce. On 19 April 2000, the Delegation had another meeting with the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development. The Delegation called on the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh and also had a meeting with the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology and Environment and Forests on 20 April 2000.

Maldives: On our invitation, a 5-member Parliamentary Delegation from Maldives, led by the Speaker of the People's Majlis of Maldives, Mr. Abdullah Hameed, visited India from 9 to 13 May 2000.

On 10 May 2000, the Delegation called on the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi; and the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Dr. (Smt.) Najma Heptulla. A dinner was hosted in honour of the Delegation by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, the same day. The Delegation called on the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Krishan Kant and also had a meeting with the members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on External Affairs on 11 May 2000. The Delegation called on the Minister of External Affairs, Shri Jaswant Singh on 12 May 2000.

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS GOING ABROAD

Mauritius: A 16-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi, visited Mauritius from 16 to 20 June 2000. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri Chintaman Navsha Wanaga, Rashid Alvi, Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Pon. Radhakrishnan, B.P. Singhal, K. Srinivasulu, N. Thalavai Sundaram, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and Smt. Minati Sen, all members of Parliament and Shri G.C. Malhotra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. Shri A. Louis Martin, Deputy Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

Czech Republic: A 15-member Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi visited the Czech Republic from 30 June to 4 July 2000. The other members of the Delegation were: Sarvashri Nikhilananda Sar, Satyavrat Chaturvedi, Gunipati Ramaiah, Ram Nath Kovind, M.J. Varkey Mattathil, C. Ramachandraiah, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, and Smt. Jayaben B. Thakkar, all members of Parliament and Shri G.C. Malhotra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha. Shri P.C. Bhatt, Principal Chief Editor, Lok Sabha Secretariat, was the Secretary to the Delegation.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 April to 30 June 2000, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) orgainsed the following Courses/ Programmes:

Orientation Programme for Members of the Orissa Legislative Assembly: An Orientation Programme for the members of the Twelfth Legislative Assembly of Orissa was organised jointly by the BPST and the Orissa Legislative Assembly Secretariat at Bhubaneswar on 23 and 24 June 2000. The Programme was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi on 23 June 2000. The Speaker, Orissa Legislative Assembly, Shri Sarat Kumar Kar delivered the Welcome Address. The Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Naveen Patnaik and the Minister, Works and Parliamentary Affairs, Orissa, Shri Nalini Kanta Mohanty also addressed the participants.

The Deputy Speaker, Orissa Legislative Assembly, Shri Rama Chandra Panda proposed a Vote of Thanks. On the concluding day, the Governor of Orissa, Shri M.M. Rajendran, delivered the Valedictory Address. The Speaker, Orissa Legislative Assembly, Shri Sarat Kumar Kar and Shri G.C. Malhotra, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha also addressed the gathering. Shri J.P. Dash, Secretary, Orissa Legislative Assembly proposed a Vote of Thanks on the occasion.

Computer Training Programme for Members of Parliament: Three Computer Training Programmes were organised by the BPST in collaboration with the National Informatics Centre for the members of Lok Sabha, from 24 to 28 April, 1 to 5 May and 8 to 12 May 2000. The Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri P.M. Sayeed inaugurated the Programme. About 70 members attended the Programme.

Computer Training Programme for the personal staff of members of Parliament was also organised by the BPST from 8 to 12 May 2000 which was attended by thirty-one participants.

Another Computer Training Programme was organised by the BPST for the staff of the Table Office, Parliamentary Notice Office and Legislative Branches of the Lok Sabha Secretariat from 5 to 9 June 2000.

Attachment Programme: An Attachment Programme was organised for Dr. A.K. Pyasi, Additional Secretary, Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat, with the Officers and Branches of the Lok Sabha Secretariat dealing with Parliamentary Questions, Legislation, Budgetary Process and Security and Watch & Ward Service from 2 to 9 May 2000.

Appreciation Courses: Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedures were organised for the following: (i) (a) Probationers of Indian Railway Traffic Service and (b) Indian Information Service (3 to 7 April 2000); (ii) Probationers of Indian Ordnance Factories Services (24 to 28 April 2000); (iii) (a) Probationers of Indian Railway Accounts Service; (b) Indian Civil Accounts Service; (c) Indian Defence Accounts Service; (d) Indian P&T Finance Service; and (e) AG Department of Government of Botswana (1 to 5 May 2000); and (iv) Indian Railway Service of Signal and Telecommunication Engineers (15 to 19 May 2000).

Training Course for Officials of the Lok Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats: The following Training Programmes were organised: (i) Training Course for Officers of the Lok Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats providing Reference and Information Service, from 22 to 26 May 2000; and (ii) Training Course for Assistants/Officers dealing with Questions and Legislative and Budgetary Processes.

Nominations of Lok Sabha Officers for Training under different institutions: Four Officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat were nominated for the Advance Translation Training Course and 6 Officers for the Refresher Translation Training Course organised by the Central Translation Bureau from 22 May 2000 to 26 May 2000 and 19 June 2000 to 23 June 2000, respectively.

Three officers of the Lok Sabha Secretariat were nominated to attend the short duration tailor-made training course in videography organised by the Asian Academy of Film and Television, Noida, from 26 to 31 July 2000.

Study Visits: Eleven Study Visits were organised for participants from various leading training educational institutions.

7

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

LOK SABHA

Reference of a privilege matter by the Speaker to the Committee of Privileges: On 9 May 2000, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi referred to the Committee of Privileges, for examination, investigation and report under Rule 227 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha, the notice of question of privilege given by Shri Sis Ram Ola, member, against the then District Collector, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan for having allegedly ordered for search of his room in Hotel *Shekhawati*, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, during his stay there with a view to malign his reputation.

Observation by the Speaker regarding a privilege matter: On 8 December 1999, Shri Kirit Somaiya, member, gave a notice of question of privilege against the Executive Director, the Enbee Plantations, alleging that he had cast aspersions on him in a press interview as reported in *Lok Satta*, a Marathi daily. On 12 May 2000, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi made an observation in the House that he had decided to treat the matter as closed in view of the unqualified apology tendered by the said Executive Director to Shri Kirit Somaiya.

8

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

LOK SABHA

Instances when papers sought to be laid on the Table of the House were not treated as papers laid and the documents were returned to the members: During the Third Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha, the following papers sought to be laid on the Table of the House by some members were not treated as papers laid due to the reasons mentioned against each and the documents were returned to the members concerned: (i) A copy of the *Journal-Dristibhangi* (in Bengali) language was sought to be laid by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, MP, on 25 April 2000, while taking part in the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Communications (The member had only referred to the allegations published in the *Journal* to reinforce his argument); (ii) Photostat copy of the letter written by the Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhi and addressed to the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sought to be laid by Shri K.H. Muniyappa, member, on 9 May 2000, while taking part in the discussion on the Constitution (Ninetieth Amendment) Bill, 2000 (All the contents of the letter were quoted by the member which formed part of the proceedings); (ii) A copy of the article on pending railway projects in Tamil Nadu, published in the Tamil Daily, *Dinamalar* dated 13 May 2000 was sought to be laid by Shri P.H. Pandian, member, while raising the matter regarding the delay in sanction of pending railway projects in Tamil Nadu, during the Zero hour on 15 May 2000 (The *Dinamalar* is a public document and is easily available).

Besides, there was no demand for laying these documents on the Table of the House.

Instance when members were permitted to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 2 May 2000, during the Discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed observed that due to the long list of participants in the debate and paucity of time, he would allow members to lay their speeches on the Table of the House. Thereafter, two members laid their written speeches on the Table of the House in full and one member laid his written speech partially.

Cut Motions are allowed to be moved only if there is proper discussion on a particular Demand: On 2 May 2000, before the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi put all the outstanding Demands for Grants relating to Ministries/Departments which could not be discussed, to the vote of the House, rising on a Point of Order, Shri Rupchand Pal, member, submitted that he had given notices of cut motions relating to the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers demanding roll back of the withdrawal of subsidy and demanded response from the Government on his cut motions. Sarvashri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, Rajesh Pilot and Somnath Chatterjee also supported the contention of Shri Rupchand Pal.

Thereupon, the Speaker, observed:

> "I have received a number of cut motions in respect of Demands for Grants which are to be guillotined. Under Rule 209(a), a member giving notice of such a cut motion shall indicate in precise terms the particulars of the policy which he proposes to discuss.
>
> The Cut Motion is a form of initiating discussion on the Demands so that the attention of the House is drawn to the matters specified in such a motion. The cut motions are thus allowed to be moved only if there is to be a proper discussion on a particular Demand. In this Session, the cut motions in respect of only the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries of Communications, Home Affairs, and Human Resource Development were circulated since they have alone come up for discussion by the House. As no time is available for discussion on the Demands for Grants of the remaining Ministries, which have to be guillotined today, the cut motions pertaining to these Ministries have neither been printed nor circulated. I have, therefore, disallowed these notices".

Thereafter, the Speaker put all the outstanding Demands for Grants to the vote of the House.

Adjournment Motion-Consent withheld since the matter could be raised during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address: On 17 April 2000, after hearing the Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, and Sarvashri N.N. Krishnadas, Varkala Radhakrishnan, P.H. Pandian, Basudeb Acharia, Subodh Ray, E. Ahamed and Rupchand Pal on the notices of Adjournment Motion tabled by them regarding the sharp increase in prices of commodities like LPG, Kerosene, Diesel, Urea and the items for those below the poverty line, distributed through the Public Distribution System, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi observed:

"Hounourable Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Smt. Sonia Gandhi, Sarvashri N.N. Krishnadas, Varkala Radhakrishnan, P.H. Pandian, Basudeb Acharia, Kamal Nath, Madhavrao Scindia, Subodh Ray, Rupchand Pal and E. Ahamed, M.P.s, regarding the Government decisions taken recently, causing immense hardships to the people, in particular the economically weaker sections, those below the poverty line and the farmers, which is a direct consequence of the sharp increase in prices of commodities like LPG, Kerosene, Diesel, Urea and the items for those below the poverty line, distributed through the PDS.

This subject can be raised during discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address which is listed in the List of Business for today. This matter can also be raised during discussion on the Finance Bill. I am, therefore, withholding my consent to the raising of the matter by way of Adjournment Motion.

Similarly, there are other notices of Adjournment Motion from Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh regarding the killing of innocent Sikhs in Jammu and Kashmir, and the notice given by Shri G.M. Banatwalla regarding the police action on the students in the campus of Jamia Milia Islamia University. They can also be raised during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Therefore, I am disallowing these notices also."

Instance when the House was adjourned for want of quorum: On 16 May 2000, after the Lobbies were cleared and the motion for consideration of the Bill further to amend the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, as passed by the Rajya Sabha, was put to vote, the Chairman, Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey, observed that there was no quorum. The House was, accordingly adjourned for want of quorum at 19.56 hrs. and the division on the motion was held over. The motion in question was adopted on the following day by division and the Bill was passed.

The matter relating to delay in laying papers on the Table of the House is referred to the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table and not raised on the floor of the House: On 8 May 2000, after the Question Hour, Shri Ramesh Chennitahala, member, raised the issue regarding delay on the part of the Government in laying certain papers on the Table of the House for which he had already given advance notice of the Speaker. Thereupon, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi observed:

"... No doubt, there has been an undue delay on the part of the Government in laying certain papers. However, in view of provisions of rule 305C, the matter has to be referred to the

Committee on Papers Laid on the Table of the House instead of raising it on the floor of the House."

Bills which are of trivial nature and do not involve any policy matter are not referred to the Standing Committees: On 8 May 2000, at about 15.00 hrs., before the Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000, was taken up for consideration and passing, the Chairman, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh observed:

> "Shri Ramesh Chennithala has tabled a notice regarding the reference of certain Bills to the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees which are included in today's List of Business.
>
> The Indian Companies (Foreign Interests) and the Companies (Temporary Restrictions on Dividends) Repeal Bill, 2000 and the Direct-Tax Laws (Miscellaneous) Repeal Bill, 2000 seek to repeal certain enactments which have already become obsolete. The Bills are of trivial nature and hence the Speaker has not referred these Bills to the respective Standing committees.
>
> The Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000 seeks to amend the Parent Act to remove the lacuna pointed out by the Supermen Court in *Dr. Ashok Vs. Union of India.* The Union Minister of Agriculture had also requested the Speaker not to refer the Insecticides (Amendment) Bill, 2000 to the Standing Committee as it does not involve any policy matter. The Speaker, therefore, has not referred the above Bill to the Standing Committee.
>
> The Food Corporation of India (Amendment) Bill, 2000 and the Sugarcane Control (Additional Powers) Repeal Bill, 2000 were introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 28 February 2000 and 14 March 2000, respectively. The Rajya Sabha initiative of referring the Bills introduced in the Rajya Sabha has to come from the Chairman, Rajya Sabha."

Instance when announcement regarding postponement of sitting due to lack of quorum was made by Deputy Secretary: On 28 April 2000, the House was adjourned at 13.06 hrs. to meet again at 14.10 hrs. As quorum could not be made, even after ringing of bell thrice from 14.10 hrs. to 14.21 hrs., Deputy Secretary (T) informed members present as fellows:

> "There is no quorum. The House, therefore, cannot meet and we may not start the House till there is quorum. Honourable Chairman has directed that the House will re-assembled at 14.35 hrs."

The House accordingly re-assembled at 14.35 hrs.

Instance when the Speaker adjourned the House before the scheduled time: On 4 May 2000, after disposal of the Finance Bill, 2000, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi adjourned the House at 16.52 hrs. *i.e.* 1 hr. 08 mts. before the scheduled time as all the business listed for the day was exhausted.

Instance when some members sought clarification from a Minister on a Statement made by him: On 20 April 2000, on a Statement made by the Union Minister of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri S.S. Dhindsa match-fixing in Cricket, some members sought clarifications and the Minister replied thereto.

STATE LEGISLATURES

HIMACHAL PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA

Second Report of the Rules Committee (1999-2000): One of the important developments during the Budget Session of the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha was the presentation and laying of the Second Report of the Rules Committee (1999-2000) on the Table of the House. Some of the major changes recommended by the Committee and adopted by the House are as follows: (i) the period of the House for each sitting day has been extended by half-an-hour; (ii) now on a single day a member can ask only two Starred and three Unstarred Questions; (iii) the Minister concerned shall now apprise the House, during the next Session of the House of the action taken on the Government and Private Members' Resolutions adopted by the House, and (iv) in a Session now a member cannot give more than two notices of motions under Rule 117. Moreover, the Minister-in-charge shall apprise the House during the next Session of the action taken by the Government on the motions adopted by the House in its previous Session. The number of Departmentally—Related Standing Committees has been reduced from 7 to 6. A new Rule 208(2) has been incorporated *vide* which it has been made mandatory that the Government shall now place a Memorandum of Action taken on the points raised during discussion on the Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board's Budget on the Table of the House during discussion on the next year's Budget as under section 61(4) of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

New Parliamentary Device "Point of Propriety": Under Rule 97 of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Rules, a member can give a notice of Adjournment Motion on a matter of urgent public importance for

which at least one hour notice before the commencement of the sitting of the Assembly is required.

In recent years, the volume of such notices was on the rise and because of that a great deal of the valuable time of the House was consumed. Therefore, the Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, decided to start a new device called "Point of Propriety", after discussion with the Leaders of Groups. Accordingly, a member can raise a matter of urgent importance (maximum 5 notices per day and a maximum of 5 minutes per notice) on which no discussion will take place, but the concerned Minister is required to send a written answer to the member within a period of one month. It was also decided that for the time being this device should be tried on experimental basis without incorporating in the Rules Book.

In the Budget Session 2000, this device showed excellent result as 63 matters of "Point of Propriety" were raised on the floor of the House. It helped reducing the number of notices given under Rule 97.

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2000)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and as such the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Deputy Leader of INC in Rajya Sabha: On 21 April 2000, Shri K. Rehman Khan was appointed as the Deputy Leader of the Indian National Congress (INC) in the Rajya Sabha.

Election of Chairman of the Asia Region of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA): The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi was unanimously elected Chairman of the Asia Region of the CPA by its Executive Committee on 20 May 2000. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri G.C. Malhotra was elected as its Regional Secretary. The elections were held at the First Regional Conference of CPA Branches in Asia and South East Asia Regions, hosted at Calcutta from 20 to 24 May 2000.

Expansion of the Council of Ministers: On 27 May 2000, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee expanded the Cabinet by inducting two Ministers of Cabinet rank. The Ministers and their portfolios are: Shri Nitish Kumar: *Agriculture*; and Shri Arjun Sethi: *Water Resources.*

New Minister of State: On 27 May 2000, Shri Brij K. Tripathi was appointed the Minister of State for Steel following the resignation of Shri Dilip Ray.

Death of member: On 11 June 2000, Shri Rajesh Pilot a member of the 13th Lok Sabha belonging to the Indian National Congress died in a road accident.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

Death of MLA: On 22 April 2000, Shri Indra Reddy, MLA belonging to the Congress died in a road accident.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Assam Governor given additional charge of Arunachal Pradesh: On 8 June 2000, the Governor of Assam, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Shri S.K. Sinha was given additional charge as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

BIHAR

Death of MLA: On 14 April 2000, Shri Gurudas Chatterjee, MLA, belonging to the Marxist Coordination Committee was assassinated by suspected Marxist Communist Centre activists in Dhanbad.

By-elections results: In the by-elections to the State Legislative Assembly held on 4 May 2000, seven members of the Legislative Council were elected to the Bihar Legislative Assembly. They were: Sarvashri Jabir Hussain, Upendra Kumar Singh, Ramnandan Singh, Kumar Rakesh Ranjan, Ram Karan Shanti, Ganga Prasad and Babeshwar Singh Bharati. They took oath on 7 May 2000.

On 29 May 2000, Smt. Rabri Devi won the Raghopur Assembly seat for which the by-election was held on 26 May 2000.

Resignation of Minister: On 8 May 2000, the Governor of Bihar, Shri V.C. Pandey accepted the resignation of the Minister for Minor Irrigation, Shri Jaiprakash Narayan Yadav.

DELHI

New Mayor: On 19 April 2000, Shri Shanti Desai was elected as the new Mayor of Delhi.

HARYANA

New Governor: On 19 June 2000, Shri Babu Parmanand was sworn-in as the new Governor of Haryana.

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Reallocation of Portfolios: On 27 April 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal reallocated some of the portfolios. The Ministers and their portfolios are: Shri Praveen Sharma: *Excise;* Shri Prakash

Chaudhary: *Animal Husbandry;* Shri R.L. Markanda: *Rural Development.*

MADHYA PRADESH

Appointment of Deputy Chief Ministers: On 26 April 2000, Shri Subhash Yadav and Smt. Jamuna Devi were appointed as Deputy Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh.

Expansion of the Council of Ministers: On 26 April 2000, the Chief Minister, Shri Digvijay Singh expanded the Cabinet by inducting 12 Ministers. The Ministers and their portfolios are:

Cabinet Ministers: Shri Subhash Yadav: *Narmada Valley Development, Culture and Tourism*; Shri Rajendra Prasad Shukla: *Parliamentary Affairs and Law*; Shri Harvansh Singh: *Forest*; Shri Hazarilal Raghuvanshi: *Planning, 20-point Programme Implementation and Economic Development*; Shri K.P. Singh : *Village Development*; Shri Hiralal Silawat: *Fisheries*; Shri Arif Aqueel: *Minorities Welfare (excluding Backward Classes Community), Bhopal Gas Tragedy Relief and Rehabilitation*; and Shri Doman Singh Nagpure: *Backward Classes Community Welfare and Labour.*

Ministers of State: Shri Manvendra Singh: *Public works*; Shri Shiv Narayan Meena: *Panchayat and Rural Development*; Shri Satyendra Pathak: *Food and Civil Supplies and Consumer Protection*; and Shri Pratap Singh Yike: *Tribal Welfare.*

MEGHALAYA

Governor reappointed: On 14 June 2000, Shri M.M. Jacob was re-appointed as the Governor of Meghalaya.

ORISSA

MLA suspended: On 27 June 2000, Shri Harihar Karan of the Congress was suspended for anti-party activities.

PONDICHERRY

Expansion of Cabinet: On 16 April 2000, the Chief Minister of Pondicherry, Shri P. Shanmugham expanded the Cabinet by inducting three new Ministers. The Ministers are: Sarvashri N. Rengaswami, E. Valsraj and Theni C. Jayakumar.

PUNJAB

Expulsion of MLAs : On 13 June 2000, the Shiromani Akali Dal

expelled nine MLAs including the former Speaker, Shri Ravi Inder Singh for their anti-party activities.

TAMIL NADU

Death of MLA: On 20 April 2000, Shri G. Chockkalingam, MLA, belonging to the DMK passed away following a brief illness.

TRIPURA

New Governor: On 17 June 2000, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Shri K.M. Seth was appointed as the new Governor of Tripura.

UTTAR PRADESH

Election to the Legislative Council: On 4 May 2000, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Prakash Gupta and the State Samajwadi Party Chief, Shri Ram Saran Das were elected to the Legislative Council from the Assembly segments in the biennial election.

DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD

BOLIVIA

Political developments: On 25 April 2000, the entire Cabinet of President, Hugo Benzer resigned after a controversial state of emergency was lifted plunging the country into a new political crisis.

BOSNIA

New Prime Minister: On 17 June 2000, Bosnia's multi-ethnic Parliament approved Mr. Spasaje Tusevljak as the country's first Prime Minister.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

New President: On 19 May 2000, Mr. Hipolitu Mejia was elected as the new President.

FIJI

Political developments: On 19 May 2000, the President, Mr. Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara declared a state of emergency after the *coup* leader Mr. George Speight seized the ethnic Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Mahendra Chaudhary and his Cabinet. On 27 May 2000, the President suspended the Government of Prime Minister, Mr. Mahendra Chaudhary.

On 29 May 2000, the Chief of Fiji's Military Force, Commodore

Frank Bainimarana proclaimed martial law and assumed executive power. On 30 May 2000, the new military regime named Mr. Tatu Epeli Naitatikau as the interim Prime Minister.

On 31 May 2000, the military ruler set a time-frame of up to three years for formulating a new Constitution.

GEORGIA

President re-elected: On 10 April 2000, Mr. Eduvard Shevardnadze was re-elected for a second term as the President.

IRAN

Election of Speaker: On 11 June 2000, Mr. Mehdi Karroubi was elected as the Speaker.

Deputy Speakers appointed: On 11 June 2000, Mr. Behzad Nabani and Mr. Mohammad Rexo Khatami were appointed as Deputy Speakers.

ISRAEL

Resignation of Deputy Prime Minister: On 28 May 2000, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Yitzhak Mordechai resigned from Office.

Withdrawal of support: On 13 June 2000, the 17-member Shas Party withdrew support to Prime Minister, Mr. Ehud Barak's ruling coalition.

ITALY

Trust vote: On 4 May 2000, the Prime Minister, Mr. Givliano Amatis won the Confidence vote in the Upper House.

JAPAN

New Prime Minister: On 5 April 2000, Mr. Yoshiro Mori was elected as the new Prime Minister.

Censure Motion: On 31 May 2000, the Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori survived a censure vote in the Upper House of Parliament.

Dissolution of Lower House: On 2 June 2000, the Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori dissolved the Lower House.

JORDAN

Prime Minister dismissed: On 18 June 2000, King Abdullah of Jordan dismissed the Prime Minister, Mr. Abdul-Raouf Al Rawabdeh, replacing him with Mr. Ali Abu Al-Ragheb.

LATVIA

Political developments: On 12 April 2000, the withdrawal of support by the Nationalist Party to the Prime Minister, Mr. Andris Skele's Centre-Right coalition resulted in the fall of the Government.

PAKISTAN

Resignation of Governor: On 24 May 2000, the Governor of Sind Province, Mr. Azim Daudpota resigned from the office.

PERU

President re-elected: On 29 May 2000, Mr. Alberto Fujimori was re-elected for a third term as the President.

RUSSIA

New President: On 7 May 2000, Mr. Vladimir Putin was sworn in as the new President.

New Prime Minister: On 7 May 2000, Mr. Mikhail Kasyanov was appointed as the acting Prime Minister and on 17 May 2000, he became the Prime Minister.

Political developments: On 14 May 2000, the President, Mr. Vladimir Putin divided the country into seven federal districts to be headed by a Presidential representative, who would help the President in exercising his Presidential powers.

SENEGAL

New Cabinet: On 4 April 2000, the Prime Minister, Mr. Moustapha Niasse announced the formation of his 27-member rmulti-party Government, the first of its kind in the country.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Political developments: On 5 June 2000, the armed rebel group known as Malaita Eagles led by Honiara Lawyer Andrew Nori seized the Prime Minister, Mr. Bartholomew Ulu Fa'alu and took control of the key installations in a *coup* attempt. On 7 June 2000, the Prime Minister was freed from militia custody. On 14 June 2000, the Prime Minister resigned from office.

New Prime Minister: On 30 June 2000, the opposition Leader, Mr. Mannasseh Sogavare was elected as the new Prime Minister.

SOUTH KOREA

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 19 May 2000, the Prime Minister, Mr. Park Tae-Joon resigned from Office.

New Prime Minister: On 22 May 2000, the President, Mr. Kim Dae-Jung appointed Mr. Lee Han-Dong as the new Prime Minister.

SRI LANKA

Minister assassinated: On 7 June 2000, the Industry Minister, Mr. C.V. Gooneratna was assassinated by a suicide bomber.

SYRIA

Death of President: On 10 June 2000, the President, Mr. Hafez al Assad passed away.

THAILAND

New Deputy Prime Minister: On 6 April 2000, the Prime Minister, Mr. Chuan Leekpai appointed Mr. Banyat Bantadthan as the Interior Minister and Deputy Prime Minister replacing Mr. Sanan Kachornprasart.

TURKEY

New President: On 16 May 2000, Judge Ahmet Necdet Sezer took oath as the new President.

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DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

The President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951, *inter alia* provided for the emoluments of the President and pension to the retiring Presidents. It also provided for medical attendance and treatment, free of charge to the spouse of a retired President for the remainder of her life. Apart from this, the spouse is not entitled to any other pensionary benefits. It was felt that it would be just and proper that the spouse of a retired President, after the death of the latter, while holding or after demitting office should get suitable pension and accommodation so that the spouse can maintain a reasonable standard of living for the remainder of her life. The President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2000 which sought to achieve the above objects was passed by the Lok Sabha on 28 April 2000 and the Rajya Sabha on 15 May 2000. It received the President's assent on 24 May 2000.

The Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament has, from time to time made several recommendations for enhancing facilities to the members of Parliament. Separately, a decision was taken to allow the former members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha to utilize the balance of one lakh free local calls which had become available to them in a year during the period from the dissolution of the Twelfth Lok Sabha on 26 April 1999 to 10 October 1999, the date on which the Thirteenth Lok Sabha was constituted. This facility was proposed to be extended in future also, whenever the Lok Sabha was prematurely dissolved. After considering the recommendations of the Joint Committee and also the other requests received from members of Parliament for enhancing the existing facilities, it was proposed to extend the following facilities to the members of Parliament, namely:- (i) the spouse of a member may be allowed to travel alone either by rail in AC first class or executive class or by air or partly by rail and partly by air from the usual place of residence of the member to Delhi and back once during every session and twice in the budget session resulting in eight such single journeys in all in a year; (ii) a member having no spouse may be allowed to take with him any other person in place of the spouse in first class AC or executive class during rail travel and this will be in addition to the companion already allowed in AC-II tier; (iii) the road mileage admissible to a member for travel between places connected by rail or steamer will be restricted to the mileage allowance otherwise admissible for travel by

rail or steamer and such road mileage may be allowed between places not connected by express or mail or super fast trains; (iv) a blind and a physically incapacitated member may be allowed the facility of taking an attendant in rail travel in the same class in which he travels in lieu of the facility of a companion in AC-II tier; and (v) the members of a prematurely dissolved Lok Sabha may be allowed to avail of the unutilized quota of one lakh free local telephone calls, 25,000 units of electricity and 2,000 kiloliters of water available to them in a year during the period from the date of dissolution till the constitution of the new Lok Sabha. A member re-elected to the new Lok Sabha may be allowed the adjustment of the excess telephone calls, units of electricity and water after availing the above unutilized quota against the quota of free telephone calls, free units of electricity and water which become available to him or her for one year from the date of the constitution of the new Lok Sabha. This would be effective from 26 April 1999 *i.e.* the date of dissolution of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2000 which sought to give effect to the above objects was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 16 May and 17 May 2000, respectively. The Bill received the President's assent on 7 June 2000.

The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998 contained provisions for extending telephone and secretarial facilities to the leaders and Chief Whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament. The relevant Section of the Act defined 'recognised group' and 'recognised party' in relation to the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha as such groups and parties which are recognised for the purposes of the Act by the Chairman/Speaker under the rules regulating the procedure of the respective Houses. In order to make the definition of 'recongnised group' and 'recognised party' more clear, it was proposed to specify numerical strength required for recognition as such 'recongised group' and 'recognised party' for the purposes of the Act. Accordingly, it was proposed to amend the relevant section of the Act to provide that a recognised party should have a strength of not less than fifty-five members being ten percent of the total membership rounded off to the nearest higher number in respect of the Lok Sabha and not less than twenty-five members being ten per cent of the total membership rounded off to the nearest higher number in respect of the Rajya Sabha. Likewise, a recognised group shall have a strength of not less than thirty members and not more than fifty-four members in respect of the Lok Sabha and not less than fifteen members and not more than twenty-four members in respect of the Rajya Sabha.

There had been persistent demand that the telephone and secretarial facilities under the Act, presently admissible only to the leaders and Chief Whips of the recongised parties and groups in Parliament, may

also be extended to the deputy leaders of those parties and groups. The relevant section of the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act. 1998 provided that 'Leaders of Opposition' as defined in section 2 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977 would not be extended the telephone and secretarial facilities under the Act. This was done in order to avoid duplication of extension of the facilities. It was proposed similarly not to extend the telephone and secretarial facilities to those leaders and Chief Whips of the recognised parties and groups who may be entitled to similar telephone and secretarial facilities by virtue of their holding the post of a Minister or representation on a parliamentary committee or other committee, council, boards, commissions or other bodies set up either by the Central or the State Governments or had in any other capacity been provided with similar telephone and secretarial facilities by the Government or a local authority or a corporation owned or controlled by the Government or any local authority. It was also proposed to amend the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, with a view to incorporating therein the office of the deputy leader of a recognised party or a recognised group so as to ensure that they are not disqualified from the membership of Parliament on account of their entitlement to the proposed facilities.

The facilities extended under the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Telephone and Secretarial Facilities) Rules, 1999 were published on 5 February 1999 in the Gazette of India and the facilities under the said Rules were being availed by the leaders and Chief Whips of some of the recognised parties or groups from the said date. Therefore, it was proposed to give retrospective effect to the provisions of the said Act under which the said rules were purported to be framed and to validate the action taken under the said rules. The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Amendment Bill, 2000 was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 16 May and 17 May 2000, respectively, and received the President's assent on 7 June 2000.

The Tenth Finance Commission had submitted its report on 26 November 1994 for the period of five years, *i.e.* 1995-96 to 1999-2000. The said report was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 14 March 1995. One of the recommendations of the Commission that had been under consideration of the Government was an alternative scheme of sharing of the proceeds of certain Union taxes and duties between the Union and the States. The alternative scheme envisaged that twenty-six per cent, out of the gross proceeds of Union taxes and duties (excluding stamp duty, excise duty on medicinal and toilet preparations, Central sales tax, consignment tax, cesses levied for specific purposes under any law made by Parliament and surcharge) is to be assigned to the States in lieu of their existing share in income tax, basic excise

duties, special excise duties and grants in lieu of tax on railway passenger fares. In addition, three per cent share in the gross proceeds of all Central taxes and duties (excluding stamp duty, excise duty on medicinal/ toilet preparations, Central sales tax, consignment tax, cesses levied for specific purposes under any law made by Parliament and surcharge) was to be assigned to the States in lieu of their existing share in additional excise duties in lieu of sales tax on tobacco, cotton and sugar. The Commission had proposed that tobacco, cotton and sugar may continue to be exempt from Sales tax and the additional excise duties in lieu of sales tax on these items may be merged with the basic excise duties. Whether the alternative scheme would be more gainful to the Centre or to the States *vis a vis* existing arrangements would entirely depend on the relative growth in the collection of various Central taxes and duties to be pooled. The benefits of the scheme as listed by the Commission are as follows: (i) With a given share being allotted to the States in the aggregate revenues from Central taxes, the States will be able to share the aggregate buoyancy of Central taxes; (ii) the Central Government can pursue tax reforms without the need to consider whether a tax is shareable with the States or not; (iii) the impact of fluctuations in Central tax revenues would be felt alike by the Central and the State Governments; (iv) should certain taxes mentioned in article 268 and or 269 from part of this arrangement, there will be greater likelihood of their being tapped; and (v) the progress of reforms will be greatly facilitated if the ambit of tax sharing arrangement is enlarged so as to give greater certainty of resource flows to, and increased flexibility in tax reform.

The above scheme recommended by the Commission was in the national interest as it helped to remove a perceived inter-tax bias in the tax mobilisation effort of the Government of India while leaving sufficient flexibility for meeting the Centre's exclusive needs by keeping cesses and surcharges outside the pooling arrangement. A Discussion Paper bringing out various aspects of the scheme was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 20 December 1996 with a view to generating an informed debate. On the basis of a consensus reached in the Third Meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 17 July 1997, the then Government had agreed in principle to accept the scheme recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission subject to certain modifications. The present Government decided to ratify the decision taken by the previous Government, according in principle approval for the scheme recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission with some modifications. Firstly, the percentage share of States was to be reviewed by successive Finance Commissions instead of freezing it for fifteen years as suggested by the Tenth Finance Commission. Secondly, Government decided to change the sharing of "gross proceeds" as recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission to the sharing of "net proceeds" in order to maintain consistency between

articles 270, 279 and 280 of the Constitution. However, this would not result in any consequent loss to the States because the Government has also simultaneously decided to compensate the States by suitably enhancing the percentage share beyond 29 per cent. Thirdly, as intended by the Commission, no amendment was sought to be done in article 271 which authorizes the Central Government to levy surcharge on Central taxes and duties for the purpose of the Union. The scheme would be effective from 1 April 1996. The percentage share of net proceeds during 1996-97 to 1999-2000 would be such that the States' share was 29 per cent of the gross proceeds. The recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission which has been mandated to give its final report by 30 June 2000, would cover the five year period with effect from 1 April 2000. In order to implement this decision, the Bill sought to amend articles 269, 270 and 272 of the Constitution so as to bring several Central taxes and duties like corporation tax and customs duties at par with personal income tax as far as their constitutionally mandated sharing with the States was concerned. The Constitution (Eightieth Amendment) Bill, 2000 was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 9 May and 16 May 2000, respectively. It received the President's assent on 9 June 2000.

Prior to 29 August 1997, the vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, which could not be filled up by direct recruitment on account of non-availability of the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, were treated as "Backlog Vacancies". These vacancies were treated as a distinct group and were excluded from the ceiling of fifty per cent reservation. The Supreme Court of India, in its judgment in the Indra Sawhney *versus* Union of India held that the number of vacancies to be filled up on the basis of reservations in a year, including carried forward reservations, should in no case exceed the limit of fifty per cent. As total reservations in a year for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the other Backward Classes combined together had already reached forty-nine and a half per cent and the total number of vacancies to be filled up in a year could not exceed fifty per cent, it became difficult to fill the "Backlog Vacancies" and to hold Special Recruitment Drives. Therefore, to implement the judgment of the Supreme Court, an Official Memorandum dated 29 August 1997 was issued to provide that the fifty per cent limit shall apply to current as well as "Backlog Vacancies" and for discontinuation of the Special Recruitment Drive. Due to the adverse effects of this order, various organisations, including members of Parliament, represented to the Central Government for protecting the interest of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Government, after considering various representations, reviewed the position and decided to make amendment in the Constitution so that the unfilled vacancies of a year, which are reserved for being filled up in that year in accordance with

any provision for reservation made under the Constitution, shall be considered as a separate class of vacancies to be filled up in any succeeding year or years and such class of vacancies shall not be considered together with the vacancies of the year in which they are being filled up for determining the ceiling of fifty per cent reservation on the total number of vacancies of that year. This amendment in the Constitution would enable the State to restore the position as was prevalent before 29 August 1997. The Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, 2000 which sought to give effect to the above objects was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 10 May and 16 May 2000, respectively. It received the President's assent on 9 June 2000.

We reproduce here the texts of the above Acts.

—Editor

THE PRESIDENT'S EMOLUMENTS AND PENSION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2000

An Act further to amend the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:–

1. *Short title and commencement:* (*1*) This Act may be called the President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Act, 2000.

(*2*) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

2. *Insertion of new section 2A:* In the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), after section 2, the following section shall be inserted, namely:–

"2A. *Family pension to spouse of President:* The spouse of a person who dies–

(*a*) while holding the office of President, or

(*b*) after ceasing to hold office as President either by the expiration of his term of office or by resignation of his office, shall be paid a family pension at the rate of fifty per cent of pension as is admissible to a retiring President, for the remainder of her life."

3. *Insertion of new section 3A:* After section 3 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely:–

"3A. *Free accommodation to spouse of President*: Subject to any rules that may be made in this behalf, the spouse of a person who dies–

(*a*) while holding the office of President, or

(*b*) after ceasing to hold office as President either by the expiration of his term of office or by resignation of his office,

shall be entitled to the use of unfurnished residence without payment of licence fee, for the remainder of her life."

THE SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2000

An Act further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:–

1. *Short title and commencement:* (*1*) This Act may be called the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Act, 2000.

(*2*) Save as otherwise provided in this Act, it shall come into force at once.

2. *Amendment of Section 4:* In the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 4,–

(*a*) in sub-section (*1*), in clause (c), in sub-clause (*ii*), for the first proviso, the following proviso shall be substituted, namely:–

> "Provided that where the spouse of a member, if any, performs such journey or part thereof by road twice in a budget session of Parliament and once during every other session of Parliament unaccompanied by such Member in respect of which such spouse has been allowed to travel by rail or air or partly by air and partly by rail from the usual place of residence of the Member to Delhi and back under sub-section (2) of section 6B, the road mileage prescribed under this sub-clause shall be allowed to such Member for such journey or part thereof:";

(*b*) in sub-section (2), the following provisos shall be inserted at the end, namely:–

> "Provided that the total amount of travelling allowance drawn by such Member for the entire journey shall not exceed the amount which would have been admissible to him had he performed

such journey by rail or by steamer, as the case may be:

Provided further that the first proviso shall be applicable to such journey only where the places of the journey are connected by express, mail or superfast train."

3. *Amendment of section 6B:* In section 6B of the principal Act,–

(*a*) section 6B shall be renumbered as sub-section (*1*) thereof, and in sub-section (1) as so renumbered, after clause (*ii*), the following proviso shall be inserted, namely:–

"Provided that where a Member has no spouse, such Member may be accompanied by any person in place of the spouse, and notwithstanding anything contained in clause (i), the person so accompanying shall be entitled to every facility available to the spouse.";

(*b*) after sub-section (*1*), the following sub-section shall be inserted, namely:–

"(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (ii) of sub-section (1), the spouse of a Member shall be entitled to travel by railway in first class air-conditioned or executive class in any train or by air or partly by rail and partly by air from the usual place of the residence of the Member to Delhi and back once during every session and twice in budget session of Parliament subject to the condition that total number of each such journey either to Delhi or back shall not exceed eight in a year:

Provided that where any such journey or part thereof is performed by air from any place other than usual place of residence of the Member to Delhi and back, then, such spouse shall be entitled to an amount equal to the fare by air for such journey or part thereof, as the case may be, or to the amount equal to the journey performed by air from the usual place of residence of the Member to Delhi and back, whichever is less."

4. *Substitution of new section for section 6D:* For section 6D of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:–

"6D. *Special facilities to blind and physically incapacitated Members:* A Member who is blind or who is, in the opinion of the Chairman of the Council of States or, as the case may be, the Speaker of the House of the People, so incapacitated physically as to require the facility of an attendant shall, with respect to each such journey–

(*i*) by air as is referred to in clause (*b*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 4 or clause (*b*) of sub-section (*1*) or sub-section

(*2*) of section 5 or section 6C which he performs along with an attendant be entitled (in addition to the allowances which he is entitled under section 4 or section 5 or, as the case may be, section 6C) to an amount equal to one fare by air for such journey;

(*ii*) by rail as is referred to in section 4, section 5, section 6 or section 6B be allowed the facility of one free railway pass for an attendant, to attend such Member, in the same class in which such Member travels in lieu of one free air-conditioned two-tier class railway pass under clause (*i*) of sub-section (*1*) of section 6B.".

5. *Amendment of section 8:* In section 8 of the principal Act, the following provisos shall be inserted and shall be deemed to have been inserted at the end with effect from the 26th day of April, 1999, namely:–

"Provided that where the House of the People is sooner dissolved before completing five years from the date appointed for its first meeting, the Member of such House may be allowed without payment, to such extent cf the quota of free telephone calls or free units of electricity or free units in kilolitres of water, available to him for a year in which such dissolution of such House takes place, as remains unutilised on the date of such dissolution, to avail during the period commencing on and from the date of such dissolution and ending on the date immediately preceding the date on which the notification under section 73 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 has been issued for the constitution of subsequent House of the People subject to the condition that such Member shall be liable to pay for any telephone calls, in excess of the calls so allowed to be made during such period on the telephone provided to him by the Government for such purpose, and units of electricity of kilolitres of water consumed in excess of the free electricity or kilolitres of water allowed:

Provided further that where the Member referred to in the first proviso becomes Member of the subsequent House of the People as referred to be constituted in that proviso, then, he shall be entitled for the adjustment of the excess telephone calls, units of electricity, kilolitres of water for the payment of which he is liable under the first proviso against the quota of free telephone calls, units of electricity and kilolitres of water for which he is entitled during the first year of the duration of such subsequent House of the People.".

THE LEADERS AND CHIEF WHIPS OF RECOGNISED PARTIES AND GROUPS IN PARLIAMENT (FACILITIES) AMENDMENT ACT, 2000

An Act to amend the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:–

1. *Short title and commencement:* (*1*) This Act may be called the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Amendment Act, 2000.

(*2*) Save as otherwise provided in this Act, it shall come into force at once.

2. *Amendment of section:* In the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 1, for sub-section (2), the following sub-section shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted on and from the 5th day of February, 1999, namely:–

"(*2*) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 5th day of February, 1999.".

3. *Substitution of new section for section 2*: For section 2 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:–

"2. *Definitions:* In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,–

(*a*) "recognised group" means,–

(*i*) in relation to the Council of States, every party which has a strength of not less than fifteen members and not more than twenty-four members in the Council;

(*ii*) in relation to the House of the People, every party which has a strength of not less than thirty members and not more than fifty-four members in the House;

(*b*) "recognised party" means,–

(*i*) in relation to the Council of States, every party which has a strength of not less than twenty-five members in the Council;

(*ii*) in relation to the House of the People, every party which has a strength of not less than fifty-five members in the House.".

4. *Substitution of new section for section 3:* For section 3 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely:–

"3. *Facilities to the Leaders and Chief Whips of recognised groups and parties:* Subject to any rules made *in this behalf* by the Central Government, each leader, deputy leader and each Chief Whip of a recognised group and a recognised party shall be entitled to telephone and secretarial facilities:

Provided that such facilities shall not be provided to such leader, deputy leader or Chief Whip, as the case may be, who–

(*i*) holds an office of Minister as defined in section 2 of the Salaries and Allowances of Ministers Act, 1952;

(*ii*) holds an office of the Leader of the Opposition as defined in section 2 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977; or

(*iii*) is entitled to similar telephone and secretarial facilities by virtue of holding any office of, or representation in, a Parliamentary Committee or other Committee, Council, Board, Commission or other body set up by the Government; or

(*iv*) is entitled to similar telephone and secretarial facilities provided to him in any other capacity by the Government or a local authority or Corporation owned or controlled by the Government or any local authority.".

5. *Amendment of section 3 of Act 10 of 1959:* In the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, in section 3, in clause (ac), for the words "each leader", the words "each leader and each deputy leader" shall be substituted.

6. *Validation of rules and certain actions:* The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Telephone and Secretarial Facilities) Rules, 1999 published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, dated the 5th February, 1999 with the notification of the Government of India in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs No. G.S.R. 66(E), dated the 4th February, 1999 (hereinafter referred to as the said Rules) shall be deemed to have and to have always had effect on and from the 5th day of February, 1999 as if the amendments made by section 2 had been in force at all material times and accordingly any action taken or anything done or purported to have been taken or done under the said Rules during the period commencing on and from the 5th day of February, 1999 and ending with the day on which the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Amendment Act, 2000 receives the assent of the President

shall be deemed to be, and to always have been, for all purposes, as validly and effectively taken or done as if the said Rules had been in force at all material times.

THE CONSTITUTION (EIGHTIETH AMENDMENT) ACT, 2000

An Act further to amend the Constitution of India.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:–

1. *Short title:* This Act may be called the Constitution (Eightieth Amendment) Act, 2000.

2. *Amendment of article 269:* In article 269 of the Constitution, for clauses (*1*) and (*2*), the following clauses shall be substituted, namely:–

'(*1*) Taxes on the sale or purchase of goods and taxes on the consignment of goods shall be levied and collected by the Government of India but shall be assigned and shall be deemed to have been assigned to the States on or after the 1st day of April, 1996 in the manner provided in clause (2).

Explanation. –For the purposes of this clause, –

(*a*) the expression "taxes on the sale or purchase of goods" shall mean taxes on sale or purchase of goods other than newspapers, where such sale or purchase takes place in the course of inter-State trade or commerce;

(*b*) the expression "taxes on the consignment of goods" shall mean taxes on the consignment of goods (whether the consignment is to the person making it or to any other person), where such consignment takes place in the course of inter-State trade or commerce.

(2) The net proceeds in any financial year of any such tax, except in so far as those proceeds represent proceeds attributable to Union territories, shall not form part of the Consolidated Fund of India, but shall be assigned to the States within which that tax is leviable in that year, and shall be distributed among those States in accordance with such principles of distribution as may be formulated by Parliament by law.'

3. *Substitution of new article for article 270:* For article 270 of the Constitution, the following article shall be substituted and shall be deemed to have been substituted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1996, namely:–

'*270. Taxes levied and distributed between the Union and the States:* (*1*) All taxes and duties referred to in the Union List, except the duties and taxes referred to in articles 268 and 269, respectively, surcharge on taxes and duties referred to in article 271 and any cess levied for specific purposes under any law made by Parliament shall be levied and collected by the Government of India and shall be distributed between the Union and the States in the manner provided in clause (2).

(*2*) Such percentage, as may be prescribed, of the net proceeds of any such tax or duty in any financial year shall not form part of the Consolidated Fund of India, but shall be assigned to the States within which that tax or duty is leviable in that year, and shall be distributed among those States in such manner and from such time as may be prescribed in the manner provided in clause (*3*).

(*3*) In this article, "prescribed" means,–

(*i*) until a Finance Commission has been constituted, prescribed by the President by order, and

(*ii*) after a Finance Commission has been constituted, prescribed by the President by order after considering the recommendations of the Finance Commission'.

4. *Omission of article 272:* (*1*) Article 272 of the Constitution shall be omitted.

(*2*) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (*1*), where any sum equivalent to the whole or any part of the net proceeds of the Union duties of excise including additional duties of excise which are levied and collected by the Government of India and which has been distributed as grants-in-aid to the States after the 1st day of April, 1996, but before the commencement of this Act, such sum shall be deemed to have been distributed in accordance with the provisions of article 270, as if article 272 had been omitted with effect from the 1st day of April, 1996.

(*3*) Any sum equivalent to the whole or any part of the net proceeds of any other tax or duty that has been distributed as grants-in-aid to the States after the 1st day of April, 1996 but before the commencement of this Act shall be deemed to have been distributed in accordance with the provisions of article 270.

THE CONSTITUTION (EIGHTY-FIRST AMENDMENT) ACT, 2000

An Act further to amend the Constitution of India.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-first Year of the Republic of India as follows:–

1. *Short title :* This Act may be called the Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Act, 2000.

2. *Amendment of article 16:* In article 16 of the Constitution after clause (4A), the following clause shall be inserted, namely:–

"(4B) Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from considering any unfilled vacancies of a year which are reserved for being filled up in that year in accordance with any provision for reservation made under clause (4) of clause (4A) as a separate class of vacancies to be filled up in any succeeding year or years and such class of vacancies shall not be considered together with the vacancies of the year in which they are being filled up for determining the ceiling of fifty per cent. reservation on total number of vacancies of that year".

11

SESSIONAL REVIEW

THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

THIRD SESSION

A. DISCUSSIONS / STATEMENTS

The Third Session of the Thirteenth Lok Sabha commenced on 23 February 2000. As per practice, the House took a recess from 17 March to 16 April 2000 to enable the Departmentally Related Standing Committees to consider the Demands for Grants of various Ministries and Departments and submit their Reports to the House. The House, which reconvened on 17 April 2000, adjourned *sine die* on 17 May 2000 and was prorogued by the President on 23 May 2000.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period 17 April to 17 May 2000 is given below*:

Motion of Thanks on the Address by the President: On 23 February 2000, the President of India, Shri K.R. Narayanan addressed** the members of both Houses of Parliament assembled together in the Central Hall. Moving the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address on 16 March 2000, Shri Madan Lal Khurana of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that this was the time when the Government, the political parties, non-government organisations and people should adopt a new kind of cooperative approach so that a new chapter of development of India would be written afresh.

Seconding the Motion, Dr. Nitish Sengupta of the All India Trinamool Congress said that the President's Address had stressed the need for a change in the mindset of everyone concerned.

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* For resume of discussions held and important business transacted during the period 23 February to 16 March 2000, *see* the *Journal of Parliamentary Information*, Vol. XLVI, No.2, June 2000, pp. 314-25

** For the text of the Address by the President, *see the Journal of Parliamentary Information*,Vol. XLVI, No. 2, June 2000, pp. 325-32

Participating in the discussion* on 17 April 2000, Shri Vaiko of Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that for the betterment of the functioning of the democracy in this country, the concept of federalism should be accepted.

Continuing the discussion on 18 April 2000, Shri Somnath Chatterjee of Communist Party of India (M) said that the country had become subservient to foreign economic policies and programmes. He hoped that the increase in prices of kerosene, LPG etc. would be withdrawn and the Public Distribution System (PDS) restored to its former position.

Participating in the discussion, Shri P.H. Pandian of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam wanted that the Constitution Review Committee appointed by the government be abolished.

Kumari Mayawati of Bahujan Samaj Party said that the President's Address did not touch the issue of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of Rashtriya Janata Dal said that the policies followed by the Government had been anti-poor.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale of Janata Dal (Secular) submitted that the Government should think about the welfare of the poor and the farmers.

Participating in the discussion, Dr. Jayanta Rongpi of the Communist Party of India (M-L) Liberation, expressed the view that the President's Address had nothing to offer to solve the growing unemployment problem.

The Leader of the Opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhi of the Indian National Congress said that secularism had been under repeated attack over the last two years. The poor performance on the agricultural front should have galvanised the Government into concerted action to strengthen the anti-poverty and employment programmes. The Government ought to have taken concrete steps to ensure economic and social empowerment of women. The steep increase in the prices of cooking gas and kerosene had compounded the misery of crores of

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Mani Shankar Aiyar, Ram Nagina Mishra, Prabhunath Singh, Amar Roy Pradhan, Anadi Sahu, Anandrao Vithoba Adsul, Adhi Sankar, Satyavarat Chaturvedi, Pawan Kumar Bansal, Trilochan Kanungo, Adhir Chowdhury, Sunder Lal Tiwari, Mohan Rawale, Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Dr. Nitish Sengupta, Smt. Margaret Alva, Smt. Shyama Singh, Smt. Preneet Kaur

women. The hike on diesel prices had added to the woes of the farmers and ordinary city travellers.

Replying to the discussion, the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that there had been changes in the life of the people during the last two years due to political and social stability. To claim that only one party could save secularism in the country was not just. Secularism is one of the basic points of our Constitution and everyone is committed to it. The recent visit of US President Mr. Bill Clinton was very fruitful. There had been a change in the attitude of the US regarding the issue of Kashmir. Discussions were held on the CTBT. A Vision Statement was also signed during President Clinton's visit. On the nuclear issue, there should not be any difference among the political parties. The security of the country should be supreme and it should not be made an issue of party politics. Shri Vajpayee assured the House that all steps in the economic sector necessary for raising the living standards of the poor would be taken. On the issue of economic reforms also a consensus should be evolved. Regarding the proposed review of the Constitution, the Prime Minister said that the basic structure of the Constitution which includes secularism would not be changed at all. The Commission would submit its recommendations which would be brought before the Parliament.

The Motion was adopted.

Drought Situation Prevailing in Various Parts of the Country: Initiating the discussion on the subject, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat of Bharatiya Janata Party said that terrible drought conditions had been prevailing in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, West Bengal, Orissa, etc. due to acute shortage of rainfall. The drought should be declared as a national calamity and the Union Government must provide sufficient grants to the State Governments to meet the situation.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri K. Yerrannaidu of Telugu Desam Party requested the Union Government to look into the drought problem.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Sis Ram Ola, Mahboob Zahedi, P.S. Gadhavi, Raj Babbar, V.P. Badnore, Pravin Rashtrapal, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Bikram Keshari Deo, Hannan Mollah, Jaswant Singh Bisnoi, M.V.V.S. Murthi, E. Ahamed, Raju Rana, Ram Sagar, Ram Raghunath Chaudhary, S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, K.P. Singh Deo, Kishan Singh Sangwan, Buta Singh, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Col.(Retd.) Sona Ram Choudhary, Shri Rajesh Pilot, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu and Dr. Girija Vyas

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of Rashtriya Janata Dal said that the Government should come forward and allot sufficient funds for drought relief and save the lives of the poor.

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete of Shiv Sena said that while short-term assistance had been provided to tackle such natural calamities, what was needed was long-term solutions to deal with such conditions.

Participating in the discussion, Shri P.H. Pandian of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that water was not available for use to the people in the wayside villages. Government should consider to make provisions of potable water to them.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale of Janata Dal (Secular) appealed that a project to reverse the natural flow of water of rivers flowing from westwards into the sea should be taken as a measure to counter frequent droughts.

Intervening in the discussion, the Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said that the fodder meant for drought affected areas would be transported by Railways free of cost.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Rural Development and Minister of Agriculture, Shri Sundar Lal Patwa said that 9,421 villages of Gujarat were reeling under drought conditions. About 80 towns and 4 major cities were also drought affected in the State. Arrangements had been made to rush fodder there from other States. Additional 20 kg. wheat was being made available to each family under the Central Scheme. As regards Rajasthan, 23,406 villages of the State were reeling under drought and arrangements were made to provide employment to four lakh workers. As regards Andhra Pradesh, 17, 421 villages were drought affected. Arrangements were being made to provide relief there also. Under the Employment Assurance Scheme, *Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana,* Rs.78 crore and Rs. 122 crore were released to Gujarat and Rajasthan, respectively, during 1999-2000. Rs. 53 crore and Rs.83 crore were released to the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan, respectively, during 1999-2000 under the Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme. He further added that the problem of drinking water was a major concern when there was drought and the Government had to find a long-term solution to this problem. Shri Patwa urged the State Government that they should discharge their responsibility sincerely in view of the gravity of the problem.

Rise in Price of Essential Commodities: Initiating the Discussion under Rule 193, on 27 April 2000, Shri Basu Deb Acharia of Communist

Party of India (M) said that even after the hard measures announced by the Finance Minister, Shri Yashwant Sinha, the Government had launched a series of attacks on the poor. The Government first increased the price of diesel. Subsequently, Shri Sinha announced the increase in issue-price of rice and wheat for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) families. He appealed that the increase in price of food grains and LPG, kerosene and fertilizers should be immediately rolled back and relief should be provided to the poor and common people.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav of the Samajwadi Party said that the worst effected due to the price-rise were the poor and asked the Government to roll back the increased prices of the essential commodities.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik said that what the Government had done was to bring down the subsidy on kerosene and LPG. The subsidy on LPG had been brought down by Rs.30 per cylinder but the real impact was to the tune of Rs.50 to Rs. 55. The Government was compelled to increase the prices to fulfil its bounden duty.

Kumari Mayawati of the Bahujan Samaj Party felt that with the hike in prices, the wages of labour class and the salary of employees of the private sector should also have been increased. She also demanded that the price rise be rolled back.

Opposing the hike in prices of essential commodities, Shri P.H. Pandian of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam asked the NDA Government to roll back the prices.

Requesting the Government not to raise the prices, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of Rashtriya Janata Dal said that since the poor people do not have any purchasing power, the rise in prices would adversely affect them.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu of Telugu Desam Party requested the Government for bringing some legislation to unearth the black money and also

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* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Kharabela Swain, S. Ajaya Kumar, Ramjivan Singh, Shankarsinh Vaghela, Aanandrao Vithoba Adsul, Sukdeo Paswan, Shankar Prasad Jaiswal, Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, S.S. Palanimanickam, Ajoy Chakraborty, Ramesh Chennithala, Prabhunath Singh, Joachim Baxla, Arjun Sethi, P. Mohan, Bir Singh Mahato, Satyavarat Chaturvedi, Kishan Singh Sangwan, Ramdas Athawale, Rajesh Pilot, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Suresh Ramrao Jadhav, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Dr. Girija Vyas, Dr. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah and Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav

to reconsider the decision on the increase in the price of essential commodities.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale of Janata Dal (Secular) requested the Government to extract money from capitalists instead of increasing the prices.

Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora of Indian National Lok Dal requested the Government to reduce its expenditure.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Shri Shanta Kumar said that it was not true that the subsidy given to the poor had been reduced. One, the quantity of food grains supplied to 33 crore people living below the poverty line had been increased from 10 kg. to 20 kg. Second, the cost of food grains supplied to the people living below the poverty line had been fixed at 50 per cent of the economic cost. Thirdly, it had been decided not to give the benefit of subsidy to the people living above the poverty line.

Increase in Prices of Certain Petroleum Products: Making a Statement on the increase in the prices of certain petroleum products on 17 April 2000, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik said that taking into account the 146 per cent increase in international prices of crude oil during the period February 1999 and March 2000, the prevailing subsidy level, the differential between diesel and PDS kerosene prices and the prices of kerosene in the neighbouring countries and in conformity with the implementation of the decision taken by the Gujaral Government on 20 November 1997 for the dismantling of the administered price mechanism, the Government had decided to increase the ex-storage point price of PDS kerosene from Rs. 2.00 per litre to Rs.4.50 per litre with effect from the midnight on 22-23 March 2000. The Government had also raised the ex-storage point price of LPG (Packed-Domestic) cylinder by Rs. 30 per cylinder and of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) by Rs. 2.00 per litre the same night. Shri Naik further informed that this increases in prices would bring to the oil pool Rs. 3,440 crore per annum from PDS kerosene, Rs. 1,660 crore per annum from LPG (Packed-Domestic) and Rs. 320 crore per annum from ATF.

Indian Built INSAT-3B Satellite launched: Making a Statement on 19 April 2000, the Minister of State of the Department of Space, Smt. Vasundhara Raje, informed that the Indian built INSAT-3B satellite was successfully launched on 22 March 2000 from Kourou, French Guyana, by an Ariane-5 launch vehicle. Soon after, the Master Control Facility at Hassan took charge of the satellite operations and in three

successive steps, using the satellite on board propulsion system, the satellite was placed in geo-stationary orbit at 36,000 km. After completing the deployments of solar panels and antenna reflectors, the in-orbit testing of the communications payload had been successfully completed. She added that the NSAT-3B was the first of the third generation INSAT series with four more satellites to follow. The Satellite primarily would cater to business communications, mobile communications and development communications. It would provide the first set of transponders for *Swarna Jayanthi Vidya Vikas Antariksh Upagraha Yojana (Vidya Vahini)* for interactive training and development communication giving fillip to the Training and Development Communication Programme using INSAT system, communications transponders and payloads for meteorological applications. It would also provide a variety of services in the areas of telecommunications, television, broadcasting, developmental education, rural development, weather prediction and disaster warning. Smt. Vasundhara Raje complimented the Indian Space Research Organisation of the Department of Space and all other agencies—the Department of Telecommunications, the Indian Meteorological Department, All India Radio and Doordarshan involved in this Programme – for the success of this mission.

Match-Fixing in Cricket: The Minister of Urban Employment, Poverty Alleviation, Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa made a statement regarding match-fixing in cricket on 20 April 2000 and said that the Government was seriously alarmed by the recent revelations regarding match-fixing in cricket, specially in the context of the recently concluded series between India and South Africa. He informed the House that the Delhi Police, on the basis of information in its possession, had lodged an FIR in this connection against Mr. Hansie Cronje, the captain of the South African cricket team and others. Keeping in view these developments, the Department of Sports summoned all the concerned agencies and officials to get an insight into the various facts of this particular case. The case was under investigation. He assured that the Government would in all seriousness initiate necessary legal measures against practices of match fixing on the basis of specific complaints that might be received, after appropriate inquiry and necessary investigation. The Government would take recourse to all legal measures to ensure that the menace would not only be curbed but eliminated.

The Situation in Sri Lanka: Making a Statement on the situation in Sri Lanka on 4 May 2000, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Ajit Kumar Panja said that recent developments in northern Sri Lanka had been a matter of serious concern to India. The

Government had been closely monitoring the evolving situation. The Government would be guided by its continued commitment to a negotiated peaceful resolution of the conflict, within the framework of Sri Lanka's unity and territorial integrity—a united Sri Lanka where all communities could realize their aspirations. He stated that the conflict in northern Sri Lanka continued to cause serious hardship to the civilians in the affected areas. There are nearly 100,000 Sri Lankan refugees in India, including about 30,000 outside the refugee camps. On humanitarian grounds, India continued to look after these refugees. He assured that India would work to mitigate the hardship inflicted upon civilians by the conflict and India hoped that peace would soon return to Sri Lanka.

Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference: On 9 May 2000, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, Shri Ajit Kumar Panja made a Statement *inter alia* informing the House that the sixth Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference was not attended by India. He stated that India remained committed to nuclear non-proliferation and held that genuine and lasting non-proliferation could only be achieved through agreements that would be based upon equality and non-discrimination, for, only these could contribute to global peace and stability. Three of the five Review Conferences held so far had failed to reach any agreement on a 'final document'. The non-nuclear weapon states Parties to the NPT had increasingly felt let down by the lack of progress on disarmament as well as non-compliance with the basic provisions of the Treaty. Shri Panja stressed that though not a party to the NPT, India's policies had been consistent with the key provisions of NPT that had applied to nuclear weapons states. After the tests undertaken by India in May 1998, it was declared that India would only maintain a minimum credible deterrent and would not engage in arms race. The role of India's nuclear weapons was defensive.

Accordingly, India had announced a policy of no-first-use and a policy of non-use against non-nuclear weapon states. India had also indicated its readiness to provide requisite assurances to the nuclear weapon-free zones in existence or those being negotiated. India had taken new initiatives calling for dilating of nuclear weapons as a means of reducing the risk of accidental or unauthorised launch. Shri Panja stated that India would continue to take initiatives and work with like-minded countries to bring stable, genuine and lasting non-proliferation, thus leading to a nuclear weapon-free world.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2000:* On 28 April 2000, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani moved the motion for consideration of the President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2000. The Bill would further amend the President's Emoluments and Pension Act, 1951, which provides for the emoluments of the President and pension to retiring Presidents. It also provides for medical attendance and treatment, free of charge, to the spouse of a retired President for the remainder of her life. It was felt that it would be just and proper that the spouse of a retired President, after the death of the latter, while holding or after demitting office, should get suitable pension and accommodation so that the spouse can maintain a reasonable standard of life for the reminder of her life. Apart from this, the spouse is not entitled to any other pensionary benefits.

Replying to the discussion**, Shri Advani said that in the original Bill, the Provision was that if he held office as President. The spouse became entitled only if he ceased to hold the office of the President, either by expiry of his term of office or by resignation, not by impeachment. Shri Advani clarified that as per this provision, family pension amounting to 50 per cent of the pension that the President would be entitled to had been made. Secondly, the accommodation would also be made available to the surviving spouse for the rest of her life.

The Bill was passed.

*The Designs Bill, 1999***:* Moving that the Bill be taken into consideration, on 20 April 2000, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Raman said that the motion provided for repealing of the Design Act, 1911 and substituting it by enacting the new law, the Design Bill, 1999. He informed that the Design Act, 1911 in India was implemented as law and even after expiry of nine decades, the Act had not been amended even once. The salient features of the proposed Bill would be to introduce the definition of "Original" system to identify the non-registered designs, to make administrative measures simple and consumer friendly, arrangement for design allotment, registration on computer, etc.

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* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20 April 2000

** Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan took part in the discussion

*** The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 13 December 1999 and was laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha on 21 December 1999

Participating in the discussion,* Shri G.M Banatwalla of Muslim League Kerala State Committee congratulated the Government for presenting a comprehensive Bill on a subject of vital importance and stressed the need to promote effective and adequate protection of the Intellectual Property Rights.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of Rashtriya Janata Dal said that the Government would not be able to contain the damages already inflicted on national interest by the World Trade Organisation.

Replying to the discussion, on 28 April 2000, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Dr. Raman said that the Bill had been aimed to take care of modern day needs and to enact a law in conformity with the laws of the other countries. It was not the intention of the Government to make India subservient before any organisation. The aim was to fulfil the minimum norms under the Trade Related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement and to make it consumer friendly.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

*The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Amendment Bill, 2000****: On 16 May 2000, the motion for consideration of the Bill was moved by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan. The Bill sought to extend telephone and secretarial facilities to the deputy leaders of the recognised Parties and recognised Groups in Parliament. The relevant Section of the Act defined 'recognised group' and 'recognised party' in relation to the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha as such groups and parties which are recognised for the purposes of the Act by the Chairman/Speaker under the rules regulating the procedure of the respective Houses. In order to make the definition of 'recongnised group' and recognised party' more clear, it was proposed to specify the numerical strength required for recognition as such 'recongised group' and 'recognised party' for the purposes of the Act. Accordingly, it was proposed to amend the relevant section of the Act to provide that a recognised party should have a strength of not less than fifty-five members being ten percent of the total membership rounded off to the nearest higher number in respect of the Lok Sabha and not less than twenty-five members being ten per cent of the total

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* Others who took part in the debate were: Sarvashri Anadi Sahu, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Ramesh Chennithala and Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan

** The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 15 May 2000

membership rounded off to the nearest higher number in respect of the Rajya Sabha. Likewise, a recognised group should have a strength of not less than thirty members and not more than fifty-four members in respect of the Lok Sabha and not less than fifteen members and not more than twenty-four members in respect of the Rajya Sabha. There had been persistent demand that the telephone and secretarial facilities under the Act, presently admissible only to the leaders and Chief Whips of the recongised parties and groups in Parliament, might also be extended to the deputy leaders of those parties and groups. The relevant section of the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998 provided that 'Leaders of Opposition' as defined in section 2 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977 would not be extended the telephone and secretarial facilities under the Act. This was done in order to avoid duplication of extension of the facilities. It was proposed similarly not to extend the telephone and secretarial facilities to those leaders and chief whips of the recognised parties and groups who might be entitled to similar telephone and secretarial facilities by virtue of their holding the post of a Minister or representation on a parliamentary committee or other committee, council, boards, commissions or other bodies set up either by the Central or the State Governments or had in any other capacity been provided with similar telephone and secretarial facilities by the Government or a local authority or a corporation owned or controlled by the Government or any local authority. It was also proposed to amend the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, with a view to incorporating therein the office of the deputy leader of a recognised party or a recognised group so as to ensure that they were not disqualified from the membership of Parliament on account of their entitlement to the proposed facilities.

The Bill was passed.

The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2000:* The motion for consideration of the Bill was moved by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Pramod Mahajan on 16 May 2000.

The Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament had from time to time made several recommendations for enhancing facilities to the members of Parliament. Separately, a decision was taken to allow the former members of the Twelfth Lok Sabha

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 12 May 2000

to utilize the balance of one lakh free local telephone calls which had become available to them in a year during the period from the dissolution of the Twelfth Lok Sabha on 26 April 1999 to 10 October 1999, the date on which the Thirteenth Lok Sabha was constituted. This facility was proposed to be extended in future also, whenever the Lok Sabha was prematurely dissolved. After considering the recommendations of the Joint Committee and also the other requests received from members of Parliament for enhancing the existing facilities, it was proposed to extend the following facilities to the members of Parliament, namely:- (i) the spouse of a member may be allowed to travel alone either by rail in AC first class or executive class or by air or partly by rail and partly by air from the usual place of residence of the member to Delhi and back once during every session and twice in the budget session resulting in eight such single journeys in all in a year; (ii) a member having no spouse may be allowed to take with him any other person in place of the spouse in first class AC or executive class during rail travel and this will be in addition to the companion already allowed in AC-II tier; (iii) the road mileage admissible to a member for travel between places connected by rail or steamer will be restricted to the mileage allowance otherwise admissible for travel by rail or steamer and such road mileage may be allowed between places not connected by express or mail or super fast trains; (iv) a blind and a physically incapacitated member may be allowed the facility of taking an attendant in rail travel in the same class in which he travels in lieu of the facility of a companion in AC-II tier; (v) the members of a prematurely dissolved Lok Sabha may be allowed to avail of the unutilized quota of one lakh free local telephone calls, 25,000 units of electricity and 2,000 kiloliters of water available to them in a year during the period from the date of dissolution till the constitution of the new Lok Sabha. A member re-elected to the new Lok Sabha might be allowed the adjustment of the excess telephone calls, units of electricity and water after availing the above unutilized quota against the quota of free telephone calls, free units of electricity and water which would become available to him or her for one year from the date of the constitution of the new Lok Sabha. This would be effective from 26 April 1999 i.e. the date of dissolution of the Twelfth Lok Sabha. The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2000 would give effect to the above objects.

The Bill was passed.

The Constitution (Eighty-Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2000:* Moving the

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 9 March 2000

motion for consideration of the Bill on 9 May 2000, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar said that the Bill sought to amend articles 269, 270, 272 of the Constitution so as to bring several Central taxes and duties like Corporation tax and Custom duties within the divisible pool which were hitherto outside the pool.

The Tenth Finance Commission had submitted its report on 26 November 1994 for the period of five years, *i.e.* 1995-96 to 1999-2000. One of the recommendations of the Commission that had been under consideration of the Government was an alternative scheme of sharing of the proceeds of certain Union taxes and duties between the Union and the States. The alternative scheme envisaged that twenty-six per cent, out of the gross proceeds of Union taxes and duties (excluding stamp duty, excise duty on medicinal toilet preparations, Central Sales Tax, Consignment tax, cesses levied for specific purposes under any law made by Parliament and Surcharge) was to be assigned to the States in lieu of their existing share in income tax, basic excise duties, special excise duties and grants in lieu of tax on railway passenger fares. In addition, three per cent share in the gross proceeds of all Central taxes and duties (excluding stamp duty, excise duty on medicinal/toilet preparations, Central Sales Tax, consignment Tax cesses levied for specific purposes under any law made by Parliament and Surcharge) was to be assigned to the States in lieu of their existing share in Additional Excise Duties in lieu of Sales Tax on tobacco, cotton and sugar. The Commission had proposed that tobacco, cotton and sugar may continue to be exempt from Sales Tax and the Additional Excise Duties in lieu of Sales Tax on these items may be merged with the Basic Excise Duties. Whether the alternative scheme would be more gainful to the Centre or to the States *vis-a vis* existing arrangements would entirely depend on the relative growth in the collection of various central taxes and duties to be pooled. The benefits of the scheme as listed by the Commission were as follows: (i) With a given share being allotted to the States in the aggregate revenues from Central taxes, the States would be able to share the aggregate buoyancy of Central taxes; (ii) the Central Government could pursue tax reforms without the need to consider whether a tax was shareable with the States or not; (iii) the impact of fluctuations in Central tax revenues would be felt alike by the Central and the State Governments; (iv) should certain taxes mentioned in article 268 and or 269 form part of this arrangement, there would be greater likelihood of their being tapped; and (v) the progress of reforms would be greatly facilitated if the ambit of tax sharing arrangement was enlarged so as to give greater certainty of resource flows to, and increased flexibility in tax reform.

The above scheme recommended by the Commission was in the national interest as it helped to remove a perceived inter-tax bias in the tax mobilisation effort of the Government of India while leaving sufficient flexibility for meeting the Centre's exclusive needs by keeping Cesses and Surcharges outside the pooling arrangement. A Discussion Paper bringing out various aspects of the scheme was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 20 December 1996 with a view to generating an informed debate. On the basis of a consensus reached in the Third Meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 17 July 1997, the then Government had agreed in principle to accept the scheme recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission subject to certain modifications. The present Government decided to ratify the decision taken by the previous Government, according in principle approval for the scheme recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission with some modifications. Firstly, the percentage share of States was to be reviewed by successive Finance Commissions instead of freezing it for fifteen years as suggested by the Tenth Finance Commission. Secondly, Government decided to change the sharing of "gross proceeds" as recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission to the sharing of "net proceeds" in order to maintain consistency between articles 270, 279 and 280 of the Constitution. However, this would not result in any consequent loss to the States because the Government had also simultaneously decided to compensate the States by suitably enhancing the percentage share beyond 29 per cent. Thirdly, as intended by the Commission, no amendment was sought to be done in article 271 which authorises the Central Government to levy surcharge on Central taxes and duties for the purpose of the Union. The scheme would be effective from 1 April 1996. The percentage share of net proceeds during 1996-97 to 1999-2000 would be such that the States' share is 29 per cent of the gross proceeds. The recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission which had been mandated to give its final report by 30 June 2000, would cover the 5 year period with effect from 1 April 2000. In order to implement this decision, this Bill sought to amend articles 269, 270 and 272 of the Constitution so as to bring several Central taxes and duties like corporation tax and Customs duties at par with personal income tax as far as their constitutionally mandated sharing with the States is concerned.

Participating in the discussion*, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of

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* Others who took part in discussion were: Sarvashri Ramesh Chennithala, Kirit Somaiya, Moinul Hassan, M.V.V.S. Murthi, Trilochan Kanungo, Mohan Rawale, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat and Smt. Renu Kumari

the Rashtriya Janata Dal asked the Government the reason for keeping a part of the net revenues from the purview of the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission.

Supporting the Bill, Shri P.H. Pandian of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam said that Parliament could not amend the Constitution retrospectively.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha assured that the loss to the States would be made up by the Government of India.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

The Constitution (Ninetieth Amendment) Bill, 2000:* On 9 May 2000, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Agro & Rural Industries, and Minister of State assisting the Prime Minister in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Shrimati Vasundhara Raje said that the Bill proposed to incorporate clause 4B, under article 16 of the Constitution with a view to enabling the States to provide a 50 per cent limit in reservation . The proposed amendment had become necessary as it had become difficult to fill the "Backlog Vacancies" consequent on the issue of an Office Memorandum dated 29 August 1997 in implementation of the Supreme Court judgement in the Indra Sawhney case. The Bill sought to enable the State to overcome the adverse effect of the aforesaid Office Memorandum dated 29 August 1997 and to restore the position as existed prior to that date. The exclusion of the backlog from 50 per cent ceiling on reserved vacancies to be filled in a year would help in accelerating recruitment to the various posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Prior to 29 August 1997, the vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, which could not be filled up by direct recruitment on account of non-availability of the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, were treated as "Backlog Vacancies". These vacancies were treated as a distinct group and were excluded from the ceiling of fifty per cent reservation. The Supreme Court of India in its judgment in the Indra Sawhney *versus* Union of India held that the number of vacancies to be filled up on the

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 8 May 2000

basis of reservations in a year including carried forward reservations should in no case exceed the limit of fifty per cent. As total reservations in a year for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the other Backward Classes combined together had already reached forty-nine and a half per cent and the total number of vacancies to be filled up in a year could not exceed fifty per cent, it became difficult to fill the "Backlog Vacancies" and to hold Special Recruitment Drives. Therefore, to implement the judgment of the Supreme Court, an Official Memorandum dated 29 August 1997 was issued to provide that the fifty per cent limit would apply to current as well as "Backlong Vacancies" and for discontinuation of the Special Recruitment Drive. Due to the adverse effects of this order, various organisations, including members of Parliament, represented to the Central Government for protecting the interest of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Government, after considering various representations, reviewed the position and decided to make amendment in the Constitution so that the unfilled vacancies of a year, which were reserved for being filled up in that year in accordance with any provision for reservation made under the Constitution, should be considered as a separate class of vacancies to be filled up in any succeeding year or years and such class of vacancies should not be considered together with the vacancies of the year in which they were being filled up for determining the ceiling of fifty per cent reservation on total number of vacancies of that year. This amendment in the Constitution would enable the State to restore the position as was prevalent before 29 August 1997.

Supporting the Bill*, Shri P.H. Pandian of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam requested the Government to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Kumari Mayawati of the Bahujan Samaj Party requested the Government to bring forward a legislation to provide reservation for SCs and STs in the matter of promotions.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav of Samajwadi Party supported the Constitution Amendment Bill.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri, Buta Singh, Thawar Chand Gehlot, Malyala Rajaiah, Rupchand Murmu, Manikrao Hodlya Gavit, Anandrao Vithoba Adsul, K.H.Muniyappa, Mahendra Baitha, Ram Sagar Rawat, Sheesh Ram Singh Ravi, Sukdeo Paswan, A. Krishna Swamy, Ratilal Kalidas Verma, Salkhan Murmu, Bheru Lal Meena, Rattan lal Kataria, Mohan Rawale, Joachim Baxla, Punnu Lal Mohale, Ramsinh Rathwa, Bir Singh Mahato, Man Sinh Patel, Pravin Rashtrapal, Virendra Kumar, Kishan Lal Diler, Dalpat Singh Parste, S.K. Bwiswmuthiary, Dr. Sanjay Paswan, Dr. V. Saroja, Shrimati Santosh Chowdhary and Shrimati Jaskaur Meena

Shri G.M. Banatwalla of the Muslim League Kerala State Committee requested that the reservation policy needed to be fully reviewed.

Shri Prakash Y. Ambedkar of Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh appealed to the Government to protect the reservation policy.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of the Rashtriya Janata Dal stated that a comprehensive Bill should be introduced for the welfare of SCs/STs.

Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale of Janata Dal (Secular) requested that reservation should be enforced everywhere.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Shri Ram Jethmalani assured the House that the word 'backlog' in the body of the text would make the statute ambiguous.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State (Independent Charge) in the Ministry of Small Scale Industries, Agro & Rural Industries and, Minister of State assisting the Prime Minister in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Smt. Vasundhara Raje said that the ambit of the reservation policy itself was very wide and the scope was very limited to exclude the 'backlog vacancies' from the ceiling of the 50 per cent limit on reserved vacancies to be filled in one year.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

The Information Technology Bill, 1999:* On 15 May 2000, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan said that the Bill was introduced with a view to facilitating transactions carried out by means of electronic data interchange. It was felt that "Electronic Commerce" as an alternative to paper-based method of communication, storage of information and conduct of business should be given legal sanction. The Bill would provide legal recognition to the digital signatures and documents filled electronically, would enable finalisation of contracts and creation of rights and obligations through the electronic medium, and would also provide for the appointment of a controller to supervise certifying authorities who would issue digital signature certificates. It would also prevent misuse in transaction over the electronic medium. The proposed legislation envisaged appropriate punishment for contravention of the provisions.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri P.H. Pandian of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam appealed to the Government to reconsider the Bill again on the question of jurisdiction.

Speaking on the Bill, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and Minister of State in the Department of Disinvestment, Shri Arun Jaitley said that the purpose of the Bill was two-fold. The first was e-documentation, e-commerce and e-communication. The second was that with the emergence of this new technology, new crimes had come into existence. He felt the urgency to pass a law which would give recognition to the entire documentation which took place through e-documentation so that it could facilitate e-trade in the country.

Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh of the Rashtriya Janata Dal wanted to know whether the Bill would boost information technology.

Shri P.C. Thomas of Kerala Congress (M) congratulated the Government for bringing the Bill and hoped that with the passing of this Bill, both the electronic and the computer media would be much more acceptable to the business world as well as to the Government .

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan said that the Government's mission was to take Information Technology to the masses.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

C. OBITUARY REFERENCES

On the opening day of the Session *i.e.* 23 February 2000, the Speaker Shri G.M.C. Balayogi made obituary references on the passing away of Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, former President of India.

On the same day, obituary references were also made on the passing away of Sarvashri Hari Charan Soy, Jagannath Choudhary, Umed Singh Rathia, Santoshrao Gode, Chaudhary Hari Ram Makkasar Godara and Smt. Uma Roy, all former members.

On 3 and 6 March 2000, obituary references were made by the Speaker, Shri Balayogi on the passing away of Shri B. Rachaiah, a

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Shivraj V. Patil, Rupchand Pal, M.V.V.S. Murthi, Ratan Lal Kataria, K.P. Singh Deo, Subodh Mohite, Satyavarat Chaturvedi, Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore, Sontosh Mohan Dev, C.N. Singh, Bal Krishna Chauhan, V. Vetriselvan, and Dr. Sanjay Paswan

former member and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, a sitting member, respectively.

On 13 March 2000, obituary references were made by the Speaker, Shri Balayogi on the passing away of Sarvashri Tulshidas Jadhav, Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi, Shiv Narayan, Mohendra Ngangom, Bapulal Malviya, all former members.

On 15 and 16 March 2000, obituary references were made on the passing away, respectively, of Sarvashri M.P. Swamy and K. Mallanna, and Sarvashri Pradyumma Bal and Sakti Kumar Sarkar, all former members.

On 19 April 2000, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, made a reference to the tragedy in which 35 persons were massacred by heavily armed militants on the intervening night of 20-21 March, 2000 in Chittisinghpora village, Anantang District, Jammu and Kashmir. The Speaker observed that the deep sense of grief in this regard would be placed on the records of the House. Thereafter, members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed souls.

On 2 May 2000, the Deputy Speaker, Shri P.M. Sayeed made a reference to the passing away of Shri Chintamani Panigrahi, former member of Lok Sabha.

Again on 8 May 2000, the Speaker, Shri G.M.C. Balayogi made a reference to the passing away of Shri Dahyabhai Parmar, a former member. Thereafter, members stood in silence for a short-while as a mark of respect to the deceased.

RAJYA SABHA

ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its One Hundred and Eighty-ninth (189th) Session on 23 February 2000, was adjourned on 16 March 2000 to enable the Departmentally-related Standing Committees of Parliament to examine the Demands for Grants of the Ministries/Departments assigned to them and report back to the House. The House resumed on 17 April 2000 and was adjourned *sine die* on 17 May 2000. The Rajya Sabha was then prorogued by the President of India on 23 May 2000.

A resume of some of the important discussions held and other

* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

business transacted during the second half of the Session is given below:*

A. DISCUSSIONS / STATEMENTS

Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the Parliament: The discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address** to the members of Parliament took place on 18-19, and 24-27 April 2000.

Moving the motion on 18 April 2000, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu of B.J.P. said that the President's Address was like an agenda for action. The fiscal deficit of the States and the Centre was the biggest economic challenge before the nation, even though the foreign exchange reserves had gone up. Shri Venkaiah Naidu said that there was a large area of consensus on economic reforms, as also on having social harmony, and on strengthening the economy, the constitutional structure and parliamentary democracy.

Supporting the motion, Shri Satish Pradhan of Shiv Sena stressed the need to discuss issues like urbanisation, rural development and public representation in various bodies.

Participating in the discussion, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that apart from strengthening the security apparatus, attention had to be paid to socio-economic development, with emphasis on agriculture, including land reforms and all-round development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Referring to the new consciousness among the *Adivasis* and *Dalits* as a positive democratic phenomenon, he called for a collective effort to use that consciousness for a peaceful social and economic transformation of society. While affirming the need for a sustained growth rate so as to remove poverty and unemployment, he said that it was the responsibility of the Government to evolve a broad national consensus on the 'second generation of reforms'. The public sector had to be restructured. Excessive speculations in stock markets had to be curbed. Dr. Manmohan Singh called upon the Government to pay serious attention to basic development issues so that it could take full advantage of the advances in information technology and software development.

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* For the resume of the discussions held and other business transacted during the first half of the Session *See* the *Journal of Parliamentary Information,* Vol. XLVI, No. 2, June 2000, pp. 325-32

** For the text of the Address, *see* Feature *"Address by the President to Parliament"* in the *Journal of Parliamentary Information,* Vol. XLVI, No.2, June 2000, pp. 236-49

Participating in the discussion on 19 April 2000, Dr. Karan Singh of the Indian National Congress said that there was a need for a national consensus on important issues. In view of the Kargil war, he stressed the imperative for restructuring the entire security apparatus and a full time National Security Advisor.

Participating in the discussion on 24 April 2000, Shri Cho. S. Ramaswamy(nominated) said that the Government had to pay more attention towards the education of the lesser privileged classes.

Replying to the discussion* on 27 April 2000, the Minister of External Affairs and Leader of the House, Shri Jaswant Singh said that the decisions of the National Development Council were in accordance with the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. He said that unless both the Central and State Governments seriously applied themselves to the question of downsizing Government, financial problems would continue to remain. He said that inflation had touched 4.6 per cent after the hike in petroleum prices and the Government was concerned with any difficulty that the consumer could face. Regarding food subsidy, he said that the supply of food at 50 per cent of the economic price to those below the poverty line had been increased from ten to twenty kgs. So far as rural development was concerned, the Government's priorities were rural health, education, housing, drinking water and employment. With this in view, a Rural Infrastructure Development Fund had been established. Regarding privatisation of the Public Sector units, he said that the interest of the workforce was uppermost in the Government's policy and also that the Public Sector units were not sold at a lesser value.

The motion was adopted.

Statement by the Minister on increase in the Prices of Certain Petroleum Products: On 17 April 2000, the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Ram Naik said that the steep increase in the prices of crude oil was due to the increase in international prices which had

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* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Kapil Sibal, E. Balanandan, Suresh Pachouri, Jibon Roy, Pranab Mukherjee, S.Viduthalai Virumbi, Dipankar Mukherjee, B.P. Singhal, Rumandla Ramachandraiah, P.N. Siva, Janeshwar Mishra, Manohar Kant Dhyani, Vayalar Ravi, Gen. (Retd.) Shankar Roy Chowdhury, Kartar Singh Duggal, Nagendra Nath Ojha, C. Ramachandraiah, Santosh Bagrodia, C.O. Poulose, M.P.A. Samad Samadani, Praful Patel, N. Thalavai Sundaram, Rama Shanker Kaushik, Suryabhan Patil Vahadane, Ramachandra Khuntia, R.N. Arya, Ram Nath Kovind, Md. Salim, Mirza Abdul Rashid, Gandhi Azad, Dr. A.R.. Kidwai, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, Dr. C. Narayana Reddy, Shrimati Sarla Maheshwari and Shrimati Saroj Dubey

shown an increase of over 146 per cent from the previous year. The steep increase in international crude oil prices had increased the differential between the import parity prices and the prices of the subsidized products, thus placing a great burden on the deficit in the Oil Pool Account. As on 22 March 2000, the difference between diesel and Public Distribution System (PDS) kerosene retail price in Delhi was Rs.11.37. The differential in prices contributed significantly to adulteration and black marketing. The increase in the prices of Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) at Rs.2.00 per litre, LPG (packed-domestic) cylinder by Rs.30 per cylinder and the PDS kerosene to Rs.4.50 per litre at the ex-storage point level with effect from the midnight of 22-23 March, 2000 would bring to the oil pool Rs.3,440 crore per annum from PDS kerosene, Rs.1,660 crore per annum from LPG (packed-domestic) and Rs.320 crore per annum from ATF. The recent decision by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to increase their oil production by 1.45 million barrels per day, excluding increase by Iran, had resulted in some decline in oil prices in the international market. However, the large deficits which had already accumulated in the Oil Pool Account could be tackled only through price adjustments. Concluding his Statement on 18 April 2000, the Minister said that the prices of petroleum products had been increased in order to increase indigenous production of crude oil. Twenty five contracts had been signed on 12 April 2000 for that purpose, he added.

Statement by the Minister regarding Match-fixing in Cricket: On 24 April 2000, the Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Shri S.S. Dhindsa said that match-fixing in cricket, especially in the context of the recently concluded series between India and South Africa, was alarming. The case was under investigation and the full dimension of the problem would only be apparent once the detailed investigation was complete. The Department of Sports was keeping a watch on the developments in the case on a regular basis. The Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) had assured its full cooperation and had agreed to make the Justice Chandrachud Report(pertaining to related allegations made in early years) public. He said that the Government would initiate necessary legal measures against practices of match-fixing on the basis of specific complaints after appropriate inquiry and necessary investigation. He assured the House that the Government would take recourse to all legal measures to ensure that match-fixing was not only curbed but eliminated also.

Statement by the Minister regarding the Explosion of Ammunitions in the Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur: On 2 May 2000, the Minister of

Defence, Shri George Fernandes said that the Ammunition Depot, Bharatpur, had been holding approximately 30,000 tonnes of ammunition under both permanent (17,220 metric tones) as well as non-standard storage (12,700 metric tones). He stated that 2 civilians had died and 7 had been injured in the explosion. The State Government was in the process of surveying the damage and had informed the Ministry on 1 May 2000 that their report would be sent shortly. He added that a Court of Inquiry under a Major General had been constituted to look into the matter.

Statement by the Minister regarding the N.P.T. Review Conference: On 9 May 2000, the Minister of External Affairs and Leader of the House, Shri Jaswant Singh said that India would not attend the sixth Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference which would take place in New York. He pointed out that India held the view that genuine and lasting non-proliferation could only be achieved through agreements based on equality and non-discrimination. India was a nuclear weapon state, and though not a party to the NPT, India's policies had been consistent with the key provisions of the NPT that applied to nuclear weapon states. The role of India's nuclear weapons was defensive. Accordingly, India had announced a policy of no-first use and non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear weapons states. The NPT community had to understand that India could not join the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state.

The Minister further stated that India had been a responsible member of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime and would continue to take initiatives and work with like-minded countries to bring about stable, genuine and lasting non-proliferation, thus leading to a nuclear weapon free world.

The Poor Performance and Mismanagement of Air India: On 2 May 2000, Shri Sanjay Nirupam called the attention of the Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Sharad Yadav in this regard.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Sharad Yadav informed the House that Air India had a staff strength of 17,848 employees and had 26 aircraft in its fleet. Losses incurred by Air India were due to increase in expenditure on account of interest and depreciation on new aircraft, deduction in yield due to increased discounting in the market and cost of operations, increase in wage bill and other staff costs and landing, handling and navigational charges, depreciation value of rupee, etc. Air India had taken certain concrete steps to improve its financial performance. The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission on the disinvestment/restructuring of Air

India were also under active consideration of the Government.The Minister informed that the Government would introduce the Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). He assured that no efforts would be spared by the Government in ensuring improvement in the functioning of the national flag carrier.

The Budget (Railways), 2000-2001 : The discussion on the Budget (Railways) 2000-2001 took place on 16 March 2000. Participating in the discussion*, the leader of the AIADMK, Shri R. Margabandu observed that the Budget had taken care of the poor and those doing small business. He said that the long pending demand for establishing a Railway Division at Salem in Tamil Nadu had not been considered. Shri Sharief-ud-din-Shariq of J&K National Conference requested the Minister to take some concrete action regarding extending railway lines up to Jammu and Kashmir.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Railways, Kumari Mamata Banerjee appreciated the concern expressed by the members to see that the Railways reached villages and the remotest areas of the country. She said that there had to be a monitoring committee in every State to look after project development and implementation, specially to look after the problems of that particular State.

Regarding accidents, the Minister said that a task force committee of the State Government and the Railways had been set up to sort out the problems being faced by the Railway Protection Force (RPF) and the Government Railways Police Force (GRPF). For Tamil Nadu, she said that the Railways had given three new trains and two new lines. Budget provision had also been increased from Rs.206.143 crore to Rs. 225.63 crore. For Orissa, she said that the budget provision had increased from Rs. 228 crore to Rs. 267 crore. The Railway grant had also increased by 15 per cent for the North-Eastern States. The zonal railways had been instructed to coordinate with a member of Parliament whenever the latter expressed a desire to spend money from his Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) fund.

Adverse effects of liberalisation of trade and free import of items manufactured by Indian industry, especially those in the Small-Scale

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Balkavi Bairagi, Gopalsinh G. Solanki, C.O. Poulose, W. Angou Singh, Naresh Yadav, Govindram Miri, Sanatan Bisi, Banarsi Das Gupta, Gaya Singh, S. Agniraj, Dipankar Mukherjee, Gen.(Retd.) Shankar Roy Chowdhury, Abani Roy, Gandhi Azad, Devi Prasad Singh, Raghavji, Chaudhary Chunni Lal, Gen.(Retd.) Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav, Dr. Jagannath Mishra and Shrimati Jayaprada Nahata

Sector: On 4 May 2000, Shri Ramdas Agarwal called the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Murasoli Maran said that India, being a founder member of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), was obliged to remove the Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) but it took recourse to the exception provided in GATT for maintaining such QRs owing to Balance of Payments (BoP) difficulties. A bilateral agreement was signed between India and USA for determining the reasonable period of time for implementing the rulings and recommendations of the Dispute Settlement Body. As per the Agreement, QRs on 714 items had been removed with effect from 1 April 2000 and QRs on the remaining 715 items were to be removed by 1 April 2001. He also said that QRs had been removed progressively in line with India's international commitments and policy of economic liberalisation. QRs in respect of all tariff lines except a few items which were canalized, were withdrawn for imports from SAARC countries with effect from 1 August 1998. For the protection of domestic industry, including the small scale industrial units, the Government, if the situation so warranted, could utilize the mechanism of raising the applied tariffs within the bound rates, and could take measures such as anti-dumping action, imposition of countervailing duties and safeguard actions which were permissible under the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreements. The Government had also taken a decision to introduce a Bill for amending the Provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, 1992 so that Safeguard Action in the form of QRs could be applied if the situation so warranted. The small-scale industries contributed 35 per cent of the total exports and employed 172 lakh persons. That being, the Government could not ignore the small-scale sector, he added.

Situation arising out of the Sankhya Vahini Project and apprehensions of emergence of a private techno-monopoly over the entire information and communication sector: On 5 May 2000, Shri Nilotpal Basu called the attention of the Minister of Communications in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Communications, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan said that the objective of the project was to establish a high speed data network in India for the benefit of educational institutions, public and private corporations, service providers, individuals, etc. for learning, training, research and other multi-media activities. The benefit of setting up *Sankhya Vahini* would percolate very quickly to a number of institutions across the country. Primary beneficiaries would

be educational institutions, local, State and Central Governments, research establishments, corporations, software companies, financial institutions, etc.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister said the Government was committed to provide new technology at cheaper rates.

The Internal Security Problem with reference to the State of Jammu and Kashmir: On 10 May 2000, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad called the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs in this regard.

Replying to the Calling Attention, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that as part of the Government's resolve to bring back normalcy in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, it had embarked upon a three-pronged strategy which comprised proactively tackling with the help of security forces, the cross-border terrorism that had been unleashed by Pakistan-sponsored terrorist outfits; accelerating economic development as also redressing the genuine grievances of the people; and initiating a dialogue, within the constitutional framework, with alienated sections of the society, especially misguided youths. To ensure speedy implementation of projects, for which the Government had been releasing funds through various Union Ministries, a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of the Cabinet Secretary had been set up. He informed that in consultation with the State Government, a policy for rehabilitation of surrendered militants was already under implementation.

Replying to the points raised by the members, the Minister said that after due consideration the Government was taking every step to tackle the problem of militancy and to bring normalcy in Jammu and Kashmir.

Short Duration Discussion on recent increase in prices of rice, wheat, kerosene, LPG and other items of daily consumption: Initiating the Short Duration Discussion on 19 April 2000, Shri Kapil Sibal of the Indian National Congress stated that the Government had not been able to discharge its responsibility to protect the poorest of the poor in the country. The inflation in food articles alone was 2.7 per cent. The inflationary trend had resulted in the cut in food subsidies which escalated the prices of foodgrains for below the poverty line families and also for above poverty line families. The policy, he said, would increase the subsidy bill. The Government's way of implementing the liberalisation programme had placed an increasing burden on the poor, without affecting the rich. As much, he urged the Government to rationalize its financial policies and programmes.

Replying to the discussion* , the Minister of Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, Shri Shanta Kumar said that all relevant decisions had been taken keeping in view the Ninth Plan document. The PDS was not an alternative but a supplementary system. Government was providing some relief to 33 crore people living below the poverty line. The quantity of foodgrains per family per month had been increased from 10 kg to 20 kg. As a result, and with the slight increase of prices, the subsidy for the poor had also increased by Rs.2,270 crore.

The Minister concluded that keeping the tough economic situation in view, it had been necessary to take some decisions to compensate the relief given to the farmers.

Short Duration Discussion on drought and famine conditions in various parts of the country, particularly in Gujarat and Rajasthan : A Short Duration Discussion in this regard took place on 25 and 26 April 2000. Initiating the discussion on 25 April 2000, Shri Suresh Pachouri said that several States—Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh—in the country were facing severe drought and famine conditions. He criticised the Government for not assessing the situation on time and taking necessary steps accordingly. He made a request to the Government to evolve short-term and long-term schemes to confront the situation. The short-term or emergency schemes would be for providing water, fodder and foodgrains to the affected people at the earliest wherein NGOs, business groups, social organizations and foreign agencies could also help. Long-term measures would include water harvesting schemes, water management schemes, etc. The recommendations of various Committees which had looked into drought and famine constitute earlier had to be implemented within a stipulated time.

Replying to the discussion** on 26 April 2000, the Minister of Rural Development, Shri Sunder Lal Patwa said that the main responsibility of

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Anantray Devshanker Dave, Jibon Roy, C. Ramachandraiah, Rama Shanker Kaushik, M.P.A. Samad Samadani, P.N. Siva and Dr. Ramendra Kumar Yadav 'Ravi'

** Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Bachani Lekhraj, Brahmakumar Bhatt, Sollpeta Ramachandra Reddy, Ramdas Agarwal, M.P.A. Samad Samadani, Ahmed Patel, M. Venkaiah Naidu, Ramachandra Khuntia, N.R. Dasari, R.P. Goenka, Gandhi Azad, Anantray Devshanker Dave, K.M. Khan, Yadlapati Venkat Rao, Santosh Bagrodia, Lalitbhai Mehta, Aimaduddin Ahmad Khan (Durru), Gopalsinh G. Solanki, Raju Parmar, B.P. Singhal, Moolchand Meena, Balkavi Bairagi, Prof. M. Sankaralingam, Prof. R.B.S. Varma, Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murty, Dr. Swami Sakshiji Maharaj, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, Shrimati Saroj Dubey and Shrimati Jayaprada Nahata

implementation of the schemes was that of the State Governments. The Central Government had a subsidiary role. He assured the House that the Government was ready to face the situation without making any discrimination among the various State Governments which were affected. The Central Government provided assistance to the States in drought and famine conditions from the Emergency Relief Fund and the National Calamity Relief Fund. The quota of each of the State was fixed in the Emergency Relief Fund. He said that even though the Government had not received contributions of States for the National Calamity Relief Fund, the Centre was still providing relief funds.

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Agriculture : Initiating the discussion in this regard on 27 April 2000, Shri Janeshwar Misra of Samajwadi Party said that despite the fact that about 70 to 80 per cent of the population depended on agriculture, a sum of only Rs.3,623 crore had been allocated for agriculture. He requested the Finance Minister to announce that the areas facing scarcity of water would be provided water and that irrigational facilities would also be provided to the farmers. He advocated the provision of old age pension and free medical facilities for farmers and agricultural workers after attaining a certain age. He also requested the Government to allocate more funds for the agriculture sector in the Budget.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri S.B. Chavan of the Indian National Congress said that if we were really interested in doubling our foodgrains production, then the involvement of small and marginal farmers had to be increased and instead of reducing the subsidy, efforts had to be made to provide them with good seeds, fertilizers and pesticides.

Shri R. Margabandu of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Khazagam wanted the Government to make agriculture an economically rewarding employment as well as knowledge intensive and a primary sector activity.

Shri Yadlapati Venkat Rao of Telugu Desam urged the Government to take an immediate initiative to formulate the National Agriculture Policy so that farmers could have protection from all the whims and vagaries of nature.

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* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri A. Vijaya Raghavan, P.K. Maheshwari, Sangh Priya Gautam, Balkavi Bairagi, Vijay Singh Yadav, P.N. Siva, Gopalsinh G. Solanki, Santosh Bagrodia, Aimaduddin Ahmad Khan (Durru), Jibon Roy, Prof. R.B.S. Varma, and Dr.(Ms.) P. Selvie Das

Shri N.R. Dasari of Communist Party of India stressed the need to evolve a new National Policy on Agriculture which would emphasise on increasing foodgrain production and productivity, and also on the significant role of women in agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry and allied vocations.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development, Shri Sunder Lal Patwa said that an environment friendly agriculture policy had to be developed. There was a need to amend the Rural Credit Plan and the *Kissan* Credit Card was a solution to this problem. The Crop Insurance Scheme which covered all types of crops had also been initiated by Government. He said that the Government was not anti-farmer, adding that India would remain an agricultural country, and that the challenges to the agricultural sector had to be faced unitedly.

Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare: Initiating the discussion in this regard on 4 May 2000, Shri Kapil Sibal of the Indian National Congress said that the Government had announced the National Population Policy in February 2000 which enunciated certain short-term, medium-term and long-term goals. He wondered how the Government would take forward its health policy and child health care if the capital allocation was so less. Due to increase in female foeticide, high mortality rate, malnutrition, non-availability of safe water and adequate sanitation, he said that the state of the Indian children was alarming.

Taking part in the discussion*, Shri Satish Pradhan of Shiv Sena said that it was the responsibility of the Government to improve the current health system.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of State of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Shri N.T. Shanmugam said that over the past five decades, there had been a marked improvement in the health status of the people. Life Expectancy had shown a remarkable increase from 37 years to 62 years. There had also been a significant reduction in the infant mortality rate, from 146 per thousand in 1951 to 72 per thousand in 1998. The Ministry of Health was also preparing a National

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Vayalar Ravi, Rama Muni Reddy Sirigireddy, Rajnath Singh 'Surya', S. Sivasubramanian, N. Thalavai Sundaram, Parmeshwar Kumar Agarwalla, Sharief-ud-din Shariq, Drupad Borgohain, Gen.(Retd.) Shankar Roy Chowdhury, Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murty, Dr. (Mrs) P. Selvie Das, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Shrimati Saroj Dubey, Shrimati Bimla Raikar and Miss Mabel Rebello

Health Policy. The Annual Plan Outlay for 2000-01 was Rs.4,920 crore showing an increase of 18.87 per cent as compared to the previous year. A major portion of the outlay was made for the National Health Programme. The level of investment had also increased to 4.01 per cent in the Ninth Five Year Plan (1997-2002).

Discussion on the Working of the Ministry of Defence: Initiating the discussion in this regard on 15 May 2000, Shri T.N. Chaturvedi of B.J.P. emphasised the need for defence preparedness backed by research and development with a view to achieving self-reliance. He said that defence and national security should be conceptualized in much broader terms encompassing economic development, food security, energy security, water security and environment. He also stressed the need for restructuring the Ministry for greater interaction between the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Service Officers.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Nilotpal Basu of the Communist Party of India(M) said that the Government had to come up with a cogent and transparent explanation on how the National Security Council was functioning and also asked the Government to bring out a White Paper to inform as to how the money given to DRDO for indigenisation of defence development had been spent.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes said that India's nuclear weapons were only a deterrent and would not be used against non-nuclear weapons states. He said that the Government agreed with the view that two aircraft carrier ships had to be always ready with the Navy. The need to strengthen and develop the Navy was further felt in view of the challenge from sea piracy. As regards the Air Force, he said that the air-crash incidents of MIG-21 had taken place due to factors other than aging. He also added that Rs.10 lakh as *ex-gratia* payment would be granted to the families of servicemen who had lost their lives in Kargil, the North-East and other parts of the country. As regards weapon locating radars, he said that the decision for indigenous production in 1995-96 had been substituted by its import.

Short Duration Discussion on the internal security situation with special reference to the North-Eastern States: Initiating the discussion

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Suresh Kalmadi, C. Ramachandraiah, Ghulam Nabi Azad, Prem Chand Gupta, B.P. Singhal, V.P. Duraisamy, Gaya Singh, N. Thalavai Sundaram, Sanjay Nirupam, K. Rama Mohana Rao, R.S. Gavai, Gandhi Azad, Adhik Shirodkar, S.S. Ahluwalia, Maulana Obaidullah Khan Azmi, Mirza Abdul Rashid, Chaudhary Chunni Lal and Shrimati Basanti Sarma

on 17 May 2000, Gen. (Retd.) Shankar Roy Chowdhury (Independent) said that all the North-Eastern, States excluding Arunachal Pradesh, had either an on-going or a past record of separatist movements. He quoted the lack of employment and economic development as the basic reason for the turbulent situation in the North-East region and urged the Government to secure the international borders of the North-East. He also expressed the need for strengthening communications between the North-East region and the rest of the country to avoid the feeling of alienation.

Participating in the discussion*, the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that insurgency had become the order of the day. Development of agriculture was equally important as that of development of infrastructure and industry in the North-East States. The problem of militancy and insurgency had to be tackled in a holistic manner coupled with improving the quality of law and order administration and development administration.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri L.K. Advani said that different States of the North-Eastern region had different problems but above all, there was a feeling of alienation. He said that the entire society, country and the Government had to pay special attention to the fact that geographical and psychological distance did not develop amongst the people. He made it clear that the Government would not compromise with the sovereignty and integrity of the country. The neighbouring countries had been persuaded to cooperate in checking the activities of the ISI. He agreed that the root cause of the North-Eastern problem was illegal immigration. The Government, in negotiation with the Finance Ministry and the Planning Commission, had envisaged a bonus for peace for those States of the North-East which succeeded in stemming extremism in their respective areas. He added that the Government was ready to negotiate with any organisation or group which was trapped in extremism and wanted to negotiate.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The National Housing Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2000**:** Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 10 May 2000, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the National Housing Bank

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri S.S. Ahluwalia, Khagen Das, C. Apok Jamir, Nabam Rebia, Swaraj Kaushal, W. Angou Singh, Drupad Borgohain, Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma, and Shrimati Basanti Sarma

** The Bill, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 16 March 2000

(NHB) was established in July 1988, under the National Housing Bank Act, 1987, to operate as the principal agency to promote housing finance institutions in the country and to provide refinance to them. The proposed provisions would enable NHB to promote healthy and universal growth of housing finance companies and would safeguard the interests of depositors. It was felt necessary to bring certain amendments to the Act for the smooth working of the Bank and to authorise it to undertake certain additional business of financing agricultural and rural development banks, etc.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister said that the amendment Bill was in pursuance of the objectives set forth in the National Housing and Habitat Policy of 1998. He said that the NHB would also be covered by the Credit Information Bureau, which was in the process of being set up and credit information would be exchanged with other financial institutions. He added that the legislation sought to strengthen the National Housing Bank, to create secondary mortgage and provide for speedy recovery of dues.

The Bill was passed.

The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Designs Bill, 1999:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 15 May 2000, the Minister of Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan said that the Bill would provide for the protection of the semiconductor integrated circuits Layout-Designs by process of registration, mechanisms for Layout-Designs which could be protected, rules to prohibit registration of Layout-Designs which were not original and/or which had been commercially exploited, period for protection, provision with regard to infringement, payment of royalty tor registered Layout-Designs, provisions for dealing with wilful infringement by way of punishment, appointing a Registrar for the Layout Designs and a mechanism of Appellate Board.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister said that it was a WTO related Bill. Being a signatory to the WTO agreement, India had tried to make whatever changes were required to be brought about in the law. Except for a minor change, all other recommendations made by the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests in the provision of the Bill had been accepted.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

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* The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 20 December 1999

The Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Bill, 2000 :* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 16 May 2000, the Minister of Finance, Shri Yashwant Sinha said that the Bill sought to amend articles 269, 270 and 272 of the Constitution so as to bring in to the divisible pool several Central taxes and duties like Corporation tax and customs duties.

[The scheme recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission was in the national interest as it helped to remove a perceived inter-tax bias in the tax mobilisation effort of the Government of India while leaving sufficient flexibility for meeting the Centre's exclusive needs by keeping Cesses and Surcharges outside the pooling arrangement. A Discussion Paper bringing out various aspects of the scheme was laid on the Table of both the Houses of Parliament on 20 December 1996 with a view to generating an informed debate. On the basis of a consensus reached in the Third Meeting of the Inter-State Council held on 17 July 1997, the then Government had agreed in principle to accept the scheme recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission subject to certain modifications. The present Government decided to ratify the decision taken by the previous Government, according in principle approval for the scheme recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission with some modifications. Firstly, the percentage share of States is to be reviewed by successive Finance Commissions instead of freezing it for fifteen years as suggested by the Tenth Finance Commission. Secondly, Government decided to change the sharing of "gross proceeds" as recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission to the sharing of "net proceeds" in order to maintain consistency between articles 270, 279 and 280 of the Constitution. However, this will not result in any consequent loss to the States because the Government has also simultaneously decided to compensate the States by suitably enhancing the percentage share beyond 29 per cent. Thirdly, as intended by the Commission, no amendment is sought to be done in article 271 which authorizes the Central Government to levy surcharge on Central taxes and duties for the purpose of the Union. The scheme would be effective from 1 April 1996. The percentage share of net proceeds during 1996-97 to 1999-2000 would be such that the State's share is 29 per cent of the gross proceeds. The recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission which had been mandated to give its final report by 30 June 2000, would cover the 5 year period with effect from 1 April 2000. In order to implement this decision, the Bill sought to amend articles 269, 270 and 272 of the Constitution so as to bring several Central taxes and duties like Corporation tax and Customs

* The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 9 May 2000

duties at par with personal income tax as far as their constitutionally mandated sharing with the States was concerned. That would greatly benefit the States, as the aggregate of the divisible pool would increase]*.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister said that the Tenth Finance Commission had laid down a formula for 29 per cent of all the taxes to devolve to the States. The Government had succeeded in persuading the States to settle for uniform Sales Tax rates. It would also introduce value-added tax from 1 April 2001 and enter into an MOU with the State Governments to overcome their fiscal problems.

The Bill was passed.

*The Constitution (Ninetieth Amendment) Bill, 2000*** : Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 16 May 2000, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Shrimati Vasundhara Raje said that the Bill proposed to incorporate clause (4B), under article 16 of the Constitution, with a view to enabling the States to provide a 50 per cent limit in reservation. The exclusion of backlog from 50 per cent ceiling on reserved vacancies to be filled in a year would help in accelerating recruitment to the posts for the Schedules Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[Prior to 29 August 1997, the vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, which could not be filled up by direct recruitment on account of non-availability of the candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes or the Scheduled Tribes, were treated as "Backlog Vacancies". These vacancies were treated as a distinct group and were excluded from the ceiling of fifty per cent reservation. The Supreme Court of India, in its judgment in Indra Sawhney *versus* Union of India, had held that the number of vacancies to be filled up on the basis of reservations in a year, including carried forward reservations, should in no case exceed the limit of fifty per cent. As total reservations in a year for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the other Backward Classes combined together had already reached forty-nine and a half per cent and the total number of vacancies to be filled up in a year could not exceed fifty per cent, it became difficult to fill the "backlog vacancies" and to hold Special Recruitment Drives. Therefore, to implement the judgment of the Supreme Court, an Official Memorandum dated 29 August 1997 was issued to provide that the fifty per cent limit shall apply to current as well as "backlog vacancies" and

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* Extracted from the Objects and Reasons of the Bill

** The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 10 May 2000

for discontinuation of the Special Recruitment Drive. Due to the adverse effects of this order, various organisations, including members of Parliament, represented to the Central Government for protecting the interest of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Government, after considering various representations, reviewed the position and decided to make amendment in the Constitution so that the unfilled vacancies of a year, which were reserved for being filled up in that year in accordance with any provision for reservation made under the Constitution, would be considered as a separate class of vacancies to be filled up in any succeeding year or years and such class of vacancies would not be considered together with the vacancies of the year in which they were being filled up for determining the ceiling of fifty per cent reservation on total number of vacancies of that year. This amendment in the Constitution would enable the State to restore the position as was prevalent before 29 August 1997]*.

The Bill was passed.

*The Information Technology Bill, 2000*** : Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 17 May 2000, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan said that the Bill would give legal sanction to electronic filing, e-mail and anything used in that respect for enabling the court to send summons to someone. The Bill would also recognize the digital signature and the use and acceptance of electronic records in Government offices and its agencies. The Bill also proposed to make consequential amendments in the Indian Penal Code and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 to provide for necessary changes in various provisions which deal with offences relating to documents and paper based transactions. The Bill also proposed to amend the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 to facilitate electronic fund transfers between the financial institutions and the Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891 to give legal sanctity for books of account maintained in the electronic form by the banks.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister said that the main object of the Bill was to spread vivid knowledge and information among the common people of the country. He said that the law was being made to facilitate e-commerce and e-governance. Increasing the band width so as to facilitate easy connectivity would be given the highest priority, he added.

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* Extracted from the Objects and Reasons of the Bill

** The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 16 May 2000

The Bill was passed.

*The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2000** : Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 17 May 2000, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan, said that the Bill was introduced further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

[After considering the recommendations of the Joint Committee and also the other requests received from members of Parliament for enhancing the existing facilities, it was proposed to extend the following facilities to the members of Parliament, namely: (i) The spouse of a member may be allowed to travel alone either by rail in AC first class or executive class or by air or partly by rail and partly by air from the usual place of residence of the member to Delhi and back once during every Session and twice in the Budget Session resulting in eight such single journeys in all in a year; (ii) a member having no spouse may be allowed to take with him any other person in place of the spouse in first class AC or executive class during rail travel and this will be in addition to the companion already allowed in AC-II tier; (iii) the road mileage admissible to a member for travel between places connected by rail or steamer will be restricted to the mileage allowance otherwise admissible for travel by rail or steamer and such road mileage may be allowed between places not connected by express or mail or super fast trains; (iv) a blind and a physically incapacitated member may be allowed the facility of taking an attendant in rail travel in the same class in which he travels in lieu of the facility of a companion in AC-II tier; and (v) the members of a prematurely dissolved Lok Sabha may be allowed to avail of the unutilized quota of one lakh free local telephone calls, 25,000 units of electricity and 2,000 kiloliters of water available to them in a year during the period from the date of dissolution till the constitution of the new Lok Sabha. A member re-elected to the new Lok Sabha may be allowed the adjustment of the excess telephone calls, units of electricity and water after availing the above unutilized quota against the quota of free telephone calls, free units of electricity and water which become available to him or her for one year from the date of constitution of the new Lok Sabha]**

The Bill was passed.

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* The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 16 May 2000

** Extracted from the Objects and Reasons of the Bill

The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Amendment Bill, 2000:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 17 May 2000, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information Technology, Shri Pramod Mahajan said that the Bill was introduced further to amend the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998.

[The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998 contained provisions for extending telephone and secretarial facilities to the leaders and chief whips of recognised parties and groups in Parliament. The relevant section of the Act defined 'recognised group' and 'recognised party' in relation to the Rajya Sabha and the Lok Sabha as such groups and parties which are recognised for the purposes of the Act by the Chairman/Speaker under the rules regulating the procedure of the respective Houses. In order to make the definition of 'recongnised group' and recognised party' more clear, it was proposed to specify numerical strength required for recognition as such 'recongised group' and 'recognised party' for the purposes of the Act. Accordingly, it was proposed to amend the relevant section of the Act to provide that a recognised party should have a strength of not less than fifty-five members being ten percent of the total membership rounded off to the nearest higher number in respect of the Lok Sabha and not less than twenty-five members being ten per cent of the total membership rounded off to the nearest higher number in respect of the Rajya Sabha. Likewise, a recognised group would have a strength of not less than thirty members and not more than fifty-four members in respect of the Lok Sabha and not less than fifteen members and not more than twenty-four members in respect of the Rajya Sabha.

There had been a persistent demand that the telephone and secretarial facilities under the Act, presently admissible only to the leaders and chief whips of the recongised parties and groups in Parliament, might also be extended to the deputy leaders of those parties and groups. The relevant section of the Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Act, 1998 provided that 'Leaders of Opposition' as defined in section 2 of the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977 would not be extended telephone and secretarial facilities under the Act. This was done in order to avoid duplication of extension of the facilities. It was proposed similarly not to extend the telephone and secretarial facilities to those leaders and chief whips of recognised parties and

* The Bill, as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 16 May 2000

groups who might be entitled to similar telephone and secretarial facilities by virtue of their holding the post of a Minister or representation on a parliamentary committee or other committee, council, boards, commissions or other bodies set up either by the Central or the State Governments or had in any other capacity been provided with similar telephone and secretarial facilities by the Government or a local authority or a corporation owned or controlled by the Government or any local authority. It was also proposed to amend the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, with a view to incorporating therein the office of the deputy leader of a recognised party or a recognised group so as to ensure that they are not disqualified from the membership of Parliament on account of their entitlement to the proposed facilities]*.

The Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the One Hundred and Eighty-ninth Session of the Rajya Sabha, 10,758 notices of questions (9,974 Starred and 784 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 738 Questions were admitted as Starred and 5,633 as Unstarred Questions. The total number of notices of Questions received in Hindi was 1,884.

Daily average of Questions: For all days, the List of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions each except for 9 March and 26 April 2000, which contained 19 Questions. On an average, 3.1 questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered on a particular day was 6 on 13 March 2000 and the minimum number of Questions orally answered was 1 on 24 February, 9 and 10 March and 17 April 2000.

Half-an-Hour Discussions: Out of the twenty-one notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion received, none was admitted for discussion.

Short Notice Questions: Out of the four Short Notice Questions received, none was admitted.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made to the passing away of Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, former President of India; Sarvashri Jagdambi Mandal, sitting member; and B. Rachaiah, J.S. Raju and Dr. Kalu Lal Shrimali, all former members. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect to the deceased.

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* Extracted from the Objects and Reasons of the Bill

STATE LEGISLATURES

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Third Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Second Session on 24 March 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 28 March 2000. The House was later prorogued by the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Arunachal Pradesh addressed the House on 24 March 2000. The Address by the Governor was telecast on the same day by the Doordarshan Kendra, Itanagar. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri Rima Taipodia and was seconded by Shri Sangki Lowang, both members of the Legislative Assembly. The Motion was discussed on 27 March 2000 in which fifteen members participated. The Motion was adopted unanimously after the Chief Minister replied to the debate.

Financial business: During the Session, the Chief Minister, Shri Mukut Mithi, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Finance, presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1999-2000 and the Vote on Account for the first four months of the year 2000-2001. The Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1999-2000 relating to various Departments were moved by the Chief Minister and voted in full on 28 March 2000. Thereafter, the Vote-on-Account for the year 2000-2001 was moved and accepted in full. The necessary Appropriation Bills were introduced and passed.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma and the former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Tamo Riba.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Tenth Assam Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Eleventh Session on 8 March 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 7 April 2000. The House was prorogued on 7 April 2000. There were sixteen sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Assam addressed the House on 8 March 2000. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his

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* Material contributed by the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat
** Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Address was moved by Shri Atul Bora and was seconded by Shri Dilip Kumar Saikia, both members of the Legislative Assembly. The Motion of Thanks was later adopted after discussion in the House.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House: (i) The Assam Protection of Interest of Depositors (in Financial Establishments) Bill, 2000; (ii) The Assam General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iii) The Assam Taxation (Settlement of Disputes) Bill, 2000; (iv) The Assam Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (v) The Assam Agricultural Produce Market (Amendment) Bill, 2000; and (vi) The Assam Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

Financial business: On 9 March 2000, the Chief Minister Shri Prafulla Kumar Mahanta who also holds the Finance portfolio presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1999-2000. The Annual Financial Statement (Budget Estimates) for the year 2000-2001 was presented in the House on 10 March 2000. The General Discussion on the Budget for the year 2000-2001 took place on two days and the Budget was passed on 30 March 2000. The Assam Appropriation (No. I) Bill, 2000 and the Assam Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 2000 were introduced and passed by the House on 14 March 2000 and 30 March 2000, respectively.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, member of Parliament; Shri Vamozo, former Chief Minister of Nagaland; Shri Nagen Sarma, Minister, Government of Assam; Shri Jagat Patgiri, former Minister of State, Government of Assam; and Sarvashri Sirajul Haque Choudhury and Binod Gayari, both members of the Legislative Assembly. Obituary references were also made on the passing away of Sarvashri Prabhat Chandra Sarma and Mahadananda Devgoswami, freedom fighters; Shri Pulakeshi Sinha, veteran political and social worker; Shri Nilimoy Choudhury, well known administrator and sportsman; Shri Mohan Bhawaria, artist; Shri Mohini Mohan Brahma, literature and educationist; Shri Madhurya Prasad Barua, tea planter and sportsman; and Shri Naren Basumatary, social worker.

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Ninth Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly which commenced its Eighth Session (Budget Session) on 2 March 2000, was

* Material contributed by the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

adjourned *sine die* on 19 April 2000. During the Session, the House took a recess from 16 to 27 March 2000 to enable the Departmentally-Related Standing Committees to consider the Budgetary Demands. The House was prorogued on 22 April 2000. There were twenty-six sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: This being the first session of the year, the Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Vishnu Kant Shastri addressed the House. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri Babu Ram Mandyal on 3 March 2000. The Motion was seconded by Shri Jai Ram Thakur. The Motion was discussed for three days in which sixteen members participated. The Motion of Thanks was adopted after a reply by the Chief Minister, Shri Prem Kumar Dhumal, on 8 March 2000.

Legislative business: Being the Budget Session, the relevant Appropriation Bills were passed by the House. Besides, some other Bill were also passed by the House. These include: (i) The Himachal Pradesh Fire Fighting Services (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (ii) The Himachal Pradesh Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2000; and (iii) The Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

Financial business: On 3 March 2000, the Supplementary Budget (First and Final Batch) for the year 1999-2000 was presented in the House. The necessary Appropriation Bill was introduced and passed by the House on 6 March 2000. The Budget Estimates for the year 2000-2001 were presented on 9 March 2000. The General Discussion on the Budget Estimates was held for four days. The Chief Minister replied to the discussion in which thirty-one members took part. The Voting on the Demands for Grants was held and on 29 March 2000, the Appropriation Bill was passed. The Excess Demands over Grants charged for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 and the Appropriation Bills thereof were also passed.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of two eminent personalities.

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eleventh Karnataka Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Second Session on 15 March 2000, was adjourned on 31 March 2000 to meet again on 10 April 2000. Subsequently, the House was

* Material contributed by the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Secretariat

adjourned *sine die* on 4 May 2000. There were twenty-eight sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Karnataka addressed the members of both the Houses assembled together on 15 March 2000. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for the Address was discussed for eight days in which fifty-two members participated. The Motion was adopted after a reply by the Chief Minister on 25 April 2000.

Legislative business: During the Session, eighteen Bills were passed by the House.

Financial business: On 27 March 2000, the Chief Minister, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presented the Budget for the year 2000-2001. Eighteen members participated in the General Discussion on the Budget. The Chief Minister replied to the Discussion on 30 March 2000. The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2000 for four months was passed the same day. The Supplementary Estimates for the year 1999-2000 were also passed. The Discussion on the Demands for Grants took place for four days and the relevant Appropriation Bill was passed on 3 May 2000.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, Shri Vasantha Asnotikar Kamalkar, sitting member; and also on the demise of some former members and others.

MADHYA PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA*

The Eleventh Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, which commenced its Fourth Session on 3 February 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 30 March 2000. There were twenty-seven sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Madhya Pradesh, Dr. Bhai Mahavir addressed the House on 3 February 2000. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri Dharmajit Singh and was seconded by Shri Nitya Niranjan Khamparia, both members of the Legislative Assembly. The Motion was discussed on 7, 8 and 9 February 2000 and was adopted by the House after the reply by the Chief Minister.

Legislative business: During the Session, eighteen Bills were introduced in the House out of which seventeen Bills (including two Bills replacing Ordinances) were passed. Some of the important Bills passed

* Material contributed by the Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Secretariat

by the House include: (i) The Madhya Pradesh Aabkari (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000; (ii) The Madhya Pradesh Bhu-Rajaswa Samhita (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000; (iii) The Madhya Pradesh Money Lenders (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iv) The Madhya Pradesh Adhosanrachana Vinidhan Nidhi Board Vidheyak, 2000; (v) The Madhya Pradesh Shaskiya Sewak (Adhiwarshiki-Ayu) (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000; (vi) The Madhya Pradesh Sahikari Society (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000; (vii) The Madhya Pradesh Panchayat Raj (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000; (viii) The Madhya Pradesh Krishi-Upaj Mandi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000; (ix) The Madhya Pradesh Nagarpalik Vidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2000; and (x) The Madhya Pradesh Krishi Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 1999.

Financial business: On 10 February 2000, the Finance Minister, Shri Ajai Mushran presented the Budget for the year 2000-2001. The General Discussion on the Budget was held on 15 and 16 February 2000. The voting on the Demands for Grants for individual Departments started on 21 February 2000 and continued upto 13 March 2000. After the voting on the Demands for Grants, the Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2000 was introduced and considered. The Statement of the Third Supplementary Expenditure for the year 1999-2000 was presented on 6 March 2000. The Supplementary Demands were discussed and the Appropriation Bill for the same was passed on 7 March 2000.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; Shri Narhari Prasad Sai, former Union Minister of State; Shri Likhiram Kaware, Transport Minister of Madhya Pradesh; Shri Ummed Singh Rathia, former member of Parliament; and Sarvashri Rameshwar Dayal Sharma, Vishnudutta Tiwari, Natthu Singh, Bhagwati Prasad Bansal, Rustam Singh Bhadoria, Kejuram Verma, Thakurdas Yadav, Bapoolal Malviya and Motilal Manang Patel, all former members of the Legislative Assembly.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Tenth Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, which commenced its First Session on 13 March 2000, concluded on 20 April 2000. The House was prorogued on 20 April 2000. There were twenty-two sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Maharashtra, Dr. P.C.

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat

Alexander addressed members of both the Houses of the State Legislature on 13 March 2000. The Address was telecast live by the Doordarshan and was also covered by the Akashwani. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved and later was adopted by the House.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bills were passed by the House : (i) The Bombay Village Panchayats Bill, 2000; (ii) The Bombay Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iii) The Maharashtra Housing and Area Development (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iv) The Maharashtra Universities (Temporary postponement of Elections of Members of University Authorities and other Bodies) Bill, 2000; (v) The Prisons (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2000; (vi) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (vii) The Bombay Village Panchayats and the Maharashtra Zila Parishads and Panchayats Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (viii) The Bombay Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (x) The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (x) The Maharashtra District Planning Committees (Constitution and Functions) (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (xi) The Maharashtra (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2000; (xii) The Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, the Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation, the Maharashtra Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation and the Maharashtra Godawari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (xii) The Maharashtra Appropriation (Vote on Account), Bill, 2000; (xiv) The Maharashtra Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis), Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of Issuance and verification of Caste Certificate) Bill, 2000; (xv) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy and Amendment) Bill, 2000; (xvi) The Maharashtra Appropriation Bill, 2000; and (xvii) The Maharashtra Ownership Flats (Regulation of the Promotion of Construction, Sale, Management and Transfer) (Retrospective Extension of Duration) Bill, 2000.

Financial business: On 13 March 2000, the Finance Minister presented the Supplementary Demands for the year 1999-2000. The Budget for the year 2000-2001 was presented in the House on 22 March 2000. The discussion on the Supplementary Demands was held on 22 and 23 March 2000. The General Discussion on the Budget was held on 27 and 29 March 2000.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; Shri Sanjaysinh Gaikwad, sitting member of the Legis-

lative Assembly; and thirteen former members of the Legislative Assembly.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL*

The Maharashtra Legislative Council, which commenced its First Session of the year 2000 on 13 March 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 20 April 2000. The House was prorogued on 20 April 2000. There were twenty-two sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Maharashtra, Dr. P.C. Alexander addressed members of both the Houses of the State Legislature on 13 March 2000. The Motion of Thanks tc the Governor for his Address was moved and adopted by the House

Legislative business: During the Session, the following Bill was introduced in the House and later considered and passed. (i) The Maharashtra Ownership Flats (Regulation of the Promotion of Construction, Sale Management and Transfer) (Retrospective Extension of Duration) Bill, 2000.

During the Session, the following twelve Bills, as passed by the State Legislative Assembly, were also passed by the House: (i) The Bombay Village Panchayats (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (ii) The Maharashtra Housing and Area Development (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (iii) The Maharashtra Universities (Temporary Postponement of Elections of Members of University Authorities and other Bodies) Bill, 2000; (iv) The Prisons (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2000; (v) The Maharashtra Municipal Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (vi) The Bombay (Village Panchayat Samitis and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (vii) The Bombay Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (viii) The Maharashtra Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (ix) The Maharashtra District Planning Committees (Constitution and Functions) (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (x) The Vidarbha Irrigation Development Corporation, the Konkan Irrigation Development Corporation, the Maharashtra Tapi Irrigation Development Corporation and the Maharashtra Godawari Marathwada Irrigation Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2000; (xi) The Maharashtra Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, De-notified Tribes (Vimukta Jatis) Nomadic Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Special Backward Category (Regulation of Issuance and verification of Caste

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislature Secretariat

Certificates) Bill, 2000; and (xii) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy and Amendment) Bill, 2000.

Financial business: On 13 March 2000, the Minister of State for Finance presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 1999-2000. The Budget for the year 2000-2001 was presented on 22 March 2000. The discussion on the Supplementary Demands for Grants took place on 22 and 23 March 2000. The General Discussion on the Budget was held on 27 and 29 March 2000. The House also considered the relevant Appropriation Bills.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma, Shri Vishavanth Shamrao *alias* Vishnuanna Patil, a sitting member of the Legislative Council; and Sarvashri Darbarsingh Sodhi and Pandurang Shivram Deshumkh, both former members of the Legislative Council.

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Sixth Meghalaya Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Budget Session, in March 2000 was adjourned *sine die on 13 April 2000.* There were eighteen sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Session commenced with the Address by the Governor of Meghalaya. The Motion of Thanks to the Governor for his Address was moved by Shri A.T. Mondal and was seconded by Shri Bires Nongsiej, both members of the Legislative Assembly. The Motion was discussed on 3 April 2000. The Motion of Thanks was adopted after a reply by the Chief Minister.

Legislative business: During the Session, six Bills were passed by the House.

Financial business: During the Session, the Supplementary Demands for Grants and the Supplementary Appropriation for the year 1999-2000 were passed. On 28 March 2000, the Finance Minister presented the Budget Estimates for the year 2000-2001 and the Vote-on-Account Budge for the first quarter of the Financial year 2000-2001. The Meghalaya Appropriation (Vote-on-Account) Bill, 2000 was passed on the same day. The discussion on the Demands for Grants took place for three days and the Appropriation (No. 1) Bill was passed. The General Discussion on the Budget Estimates was held for four days.

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* Material contributed by the Meghalaya Legislative Assembly Secretariat

The Finance Minister replied to the General Discussion on the Budget on 12 April 2000.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma. Obituary references were also made on the passing away of some sitting members and former members of the Legislative Assembly and of other personalities.

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Eighth Tripura Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Seventh Session on 7 July 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 20 July 2000.

Financial business: The General Discussion on the Budget Estimates for the year 2000-2001 was held in which eight members participated. The Chief Minister replied to the debate.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Twelfth West Bengal Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Ninth Session on 2 March 2000, was adjourned *sine die* on 31 March 2000. There were eighteen sittings in all.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of the former President of India, Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma; Smt. Geeta Mukherjee, sitting member of Parliament and former member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly; Shri Sorashi Chowdhury, former member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly and freedom fighter; Shri Ramani Ranjan Gangopadhyay, freedom fighter; Lady Ranu Mukhopadhyay, legendary figure in the cultural sphere in the State; Ustad Alla Rakha Khan Qureshi, renowned tabla maestro; Smt. Uma Roy, former member of Parliament and of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly; Shri Rabin Mukherjee, former Minister of West Bengal; and Sarvashri Satyapada Bhattacharyya, Sakti Kumar Sarkar, Azizur Rahman, Gunadhar Choudhury, Birendra Bijoy Malladeb and Satya Ghosal, all former members of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly. Obituary references were also made in respect of 35 Sikhs those killed by the militants in Anantnag, in Jammu and Kashmir.

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* Material contributed by the Tripura Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly Secretariat

12

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APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE FOURTH SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	24 July 2000 to 25 August 2000
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	22
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	144 Hours and 43 minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	6
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	14
	(ii) Introduced	14
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Rajya Sabha	10
	(iv) Returned by the Rajya Sabha with any amendment/ recommendation and laid on the Table	3
	(v) Reported by Joint Committee	1
	(vi) Reported by Standing Committee	09
	(vii) Discussed	21
	(viii) Passed	20
	(ix) Part-discussed	1
	(x) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	2
	(xi) Pending at the end of the Session	18
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	106
	(ii) Introduced	45
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Withdrawn	1
	(v) Part-discussed	1
	(vi) Removed from the Register of pending bills	1
	(vii) Pending at the end of the Session	149
7.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	163
8.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	349
9.	DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 184	1 (Negatived)
10.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	146
	(ii) Admitted	4
	(iii) Discussions held	4
11.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling attention of Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	2
12.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372	14

13.	HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	3
14.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	1
	(ii) Admitted	1
	(iii) Moved	1
	(iv) Adopted	1
15.	GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	2
	(ii) Admitted	2
	(iii) Moved	Nil
16.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Received	6
	(ii) Admitted	6
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Negatived	Nil
	(vi) Withdrawn	1
	(vii) Part-discussed	1
17.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	3
	(ii) Admitted	3
	(iii) Discussed	Nil
18.	PRIVATE MEMBER'S MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	370
	(ii) Admitted	87
	(iii) Moved	1
	(iv) Discussed	1
	(v) Negatived	1
19.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	17,269
20.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1,723 on 22.8.2000
21.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
	(i) Starred	460
	(ii) Unstarred	5,142
	(iii) Short Notice Questions	2
	(iv) Half-an-hour discussions	3
22.	NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE	9
23.	PETITIONS PRESENTED	3
24.	NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATE	2 (i) Smt. Kumudini Patnaik on 24.7.2000 (ii) Dr. Bikram Sarkar on 26.7.2000
25.	NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	8
	(ii) Brought before the House	2
	(iii) Consent withheld by Speaker	1
	(iv) Observation made by Speaker	Nil

26. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period 1 April to 30 June 2000	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	4	4
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members	1	1
iii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	8	2
iv)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	3	—
v)	Committee on Petitions	5	—
vi)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	2	—
vii)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	1	—
viii)	Committee on Privileges	—	—
ix)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
x)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	2	—
xi)	Estimates Committee	4	4
xii)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xiii)	House Committee	—	—
	a) Accommodation Sub-Committee b) Sub-Committee on Amenities		
xiv)	Public Accounts Committee	—	—
xv)	Railway Convention Committee	—	—
xvi)	Rules Committee	—	—
	JOINT/SELECT COMMITTEES		
i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	2	—
ii)	Joint Committee on Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999	5	—
iii)	Committee on Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers Rights Bill, 1999	2	—
	STANDING COMMITTEE		
i)	Committee on Agriculture	3	5
ii)	Committee on Communications	—	—
iii)	Committee on Defence	4	4
iv)	Committee on Energy	6	8
	Sub Committee		
v)	Committee on External Affairs	7	1
vi)	Committee on Finance	7	4
vii)	Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	3	3
viii)	Committee on Labour and Welfare	2	3
ix)	Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals	2	1
x)	Committee on Railways	—	—
xi)	Committee on Urban and Rural Development	—	—
xii)	Committee on the Empowerment of Women	5	—

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	21 February 2000 to 17 May 2000
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	37
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTINGS HOURS	188 Hours & 52 minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	10
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	42
	(ii) Introduced	9
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	22
	(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment	2
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vii) Referred to the Departmentally related Standing Committees	4
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	Nil
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(x) Reported by the Departmentally-related Standing Committees	4
	(xi) Discussed	23
	(xii) Passed	25**
	(xiii) Withdrawn	Nil
	(xiv) Negatived	Nil
	(xv) Part-discussed	Nil
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	8

** Out of 25 bills on the Table of the Rajya Sabha, two bills namely, the Cotton Textiles Cess (Repeal) Bill, 2000 and the Direct Tax Laws (Miscellaneous) Repeal Bill, 2000, as passed by the Lok Sabha, could not be considered and were deemed to have been passed by the Rajya Sabha under article 109(5) of the Constitution as these were Money Bills. Under Art. 109(5), if a money Bill passed by the Lok Sabha and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations is not refund to the Lok Sabha within fourteen days, it shall be deemed to have been passed by both the Houses at the expiration of the said period in the form in which it was passed by the Lok Sabha

** Includes 10 Money Bills returned by the Rajya Sabha to the Lok Sabha

(xvii) Discussion postponed	Nil
(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	47
6. PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	148
(ii) Introduced	15
(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil
(iv) Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	Nil
(v) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(vi) Discussed	2
(vii) Withdrawn	1
(viii) Passed	Nil
(ix) Negatived	Nil
(x) Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi) Part-discussed	1
(xii) Discussion postponed	Nil
(xiii) Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv) Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv) Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	76
(xvi) Pending at the end of the Session	86
7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
(i) Notices received	92
(ii) Admitted	37
(iii) Discussions held	6 (on 6 subjects)
NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
8. STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS	7
9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD	Nil
10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	7
(ii) Admitted	7 (on 2 subjects)
(iii) Moved	2
(iv) Adopted	1
(v) Negatived	1
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Notices received	3

(ii) Admitted	3 (on 3 subjects)
(iii) Moved	1
(iv) Adopted	1
12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
(i) Received	8
(ii) Admitted	7
(iii) Discussed	1 (contd. from 188th Session)
(iv) Withdrawn	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Adopted	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Discussion postponed	Nil
13. GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
(i) Notices received	1
(ii) Admitted	1
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
14. PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
(i) Received	110
(ii) Admitted	10[c]
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Part-discussed	Nil
(vi) Negatived	Nil
(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
15. MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
(i) Received	Nil
(ii) Admitted	Nil
(iii) Moved	Nil
(iv) Adopted	Nil
(v) Negatived	Nil
(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
(viii) Lapsed	Nil
16. NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	Nil
17. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	2,159
18. TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	5,196
19. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUEd	126 (on 17.5.2000)

20. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE — 360 (on 17.4.2000)

21. TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED

(i) Starred — 738

(ii) Unstarred — 5,633

(iii) Short-Notice Questions — Nil

22. DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES — 3

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl No.	Name of the Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 23 February to 17 May 2000	No. of Reports presented during the 189th Session
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	6	NIL
ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
iii)	Committee on Petitions	—	—
iv)	Committee on Privileges	2	4
v)	Committee on Rules	2	1
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
viii)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
ix)	House Committee	—	—
DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED COMMITTEES:			
x)	Commerce	—	—
xi)	Home Affairs	—	—
xii)	Human Resource Development	—	—
xiii)	Industry	—	—
xiv)	Science & Technology, Environment & Forests	—	—
xv)	Transport and Tourism	—	—
OTHER COMMITTEES			
xvi)	Ethics Committee	—	—
xvii)	Committee on Provision of Computers to the Members of Rajya Sabha	—	—
xviii)	Committee on members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	—	—

24. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE — 3

25. PETITIONS PRESENTED — —

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN WITH DATES

S.No.	Name of Members sworn in	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn
1	2	3	4
1.	Ms. Lata Mangeshkar	Nominated	23.2.2000
2.	Dr. A.R. Kidwai	INC	-do-
3.	Dr. Karan Singh	-do-	-do-
4.	Shri P.N. Siva	DMK	-do-
5.	Shri Ka. Ra. Subbian	-do-	-do-
6.	Shrimati Ambika Soni	INC	24.2.2000
7.	Shri K.G. Bhutia	SDF	25.2.2000
8.	Shri K.C. Kondaiah	INC	28.2.200O
9.	Dr. Alladi P. Rajkumar	TD	17.4.2000
10.	Shri Dasari Narayana Rao	INC	-do-
11.	Shrimati Vanga Geetha	TD	-do-
12.	Shri K.M. Khan	INC	-do-
13.	Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao	TD	-do-
14.	Shri Rama Muni Reddy Sirigireddy	-do-	-do-
15.	Dr. Faguni Ram	INC	-do-
16.	Shrimati Kum Kum Rai	RJD	-do-
17.	Shri Mahendra Prasad	-do-	-do-
18.	Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh	Samata Party	-do-
19.	Shri R.K. Anand	JMM	17.4.2000
20.	Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad	BJP	-do-
21.	Shri S.S. Ahluwalia	-do-	-do-
22.	Ven'ble Dhammaviriyo	RJD	-do-
23.	Shri Vijay Singh Yadav	-do-	-do-
24.	Dr. A.K. Patel	BJP	-do-
25.	Shri Arun Jaitley	-do-	-do-
26.	Shri Bachani Lekhraj	-do-	-do-
27.	Shri Raju Parmar	INC	-do-
28.	Shri Faqir Chand Mullana	INLD	-do-
29.	Shri Kripal Parmar	BJP	-do-
30.	Mirza Abdul Rashid	J&K N.C.	-do-
31.	Shrimati Bimba Raikar	INC	-do-
32.	Shri K.B. Krishna Murthy	-do-	-do-
33.	Shri K. Rahman Khan	-do-	-do-
34.	Shri M. Rajasekara Murthy	BJP	-do-
35.	Shri Arjun Singh	INC	-do-
36.	Shri Bhagatram Manhar	-do-	-do-
37.	Shri Hansraj Bhardwaj	-do-	-do-
38.	Shri Kailash Joshi	BJP	-do-
39.	Shri P.K. Maheshwari	INC	-do-
40.	Shri Vikram Verma	BJP	-do-
41.	Shri B.P. Apte	-do-	-do-
42.	Shri Ram Jethmalani	IND	-do-
43.	Shri R.S. Gavai	RPI	17.4.2000

1	2	3	4
44.	Shri Sanjay Nirupam	SS	-do-
45.	Shri B.J. Panda	BJD	-do-
46.	Shri Birabhadra Singh	-do-	-do-
47.	Shri Man Mohan Samal	BJP	-do-
48.	Shrimati Jamana Devi Barupal	INC	-do-
49.	Shri Moolchand Meena	-do-	-do-
50.	Shri R.P. Goenka	-do-	-do-
51.	Shri Balbir K. Punj	BJP	-do-
52.	Shri Dara Singh Chauhan	SP	-do-
53.	Shri Ghanshyam Chandra Kharwar	BSP	-do-
54.	Shri Janeshwar Mishra	SP	-do-
55.	Prof. M.M. Aggarwal	IND	-do-
56.	Shri Rajeev Shukla	ABLC	-do-
57.	Shri Rajnath Singh	BJP	-do-
58.	Prof. R.B.S. Varma	-do-	-do-
59.	Dr. Swami Sakshiji Maharaj	SP	-do-
60.	Shrimati Sushma Swaraj	BJP	-do-
61.	Dr. Biplab Dasgupta	CPI(M)	-do-
62.	Shri Dipankar Mukherjee	-do-	-do-
63.	Shri Jayanta Bhattacharya	IND	-do-
64.	Shri Manoj Bhattacharya	RSP	-do-
65.	Shri Nilotpal Basu	CPI(M)	-do-
66.	Shri Praful Patel	NCP	18.4.2000
67.	Shri Ram Nath Kovind	BJP	18.4.2000
68.	Shri Yusuf Sarwar Khan *alias* Dilip Kumar	INC	20.4.2000

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

S.No.	Name	Sitting member/ Ex-member
1.	Dr. Shanker Dayal Sharma	Former President of India and ex-member
2.	Shri Jagdambi Mandal	Sitting member
3.	Dr. Kalu Lal Shrimali	Ex-member
4.	Shri B. Rachaiah	-do-
5.	Shri J.S. Raju	-do-

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2000

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	393(110)	(95)(a)	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.**	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.	24.4.2000 to 25.4.2000	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa L.A.	20.6.2000 to 27.7.2000	23	18(18)	5(3)	1,109(841)	25(111)(b)	13(3)
Gujarat L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	786(330)	—
Haryana L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.	23.2.1999 to 10.4.2000 & 19.6.2000 to 26.6.2000	10&6	12(10)	5	1,376(1273)	503(472)	13(13)
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.	23.2.2000 to 27.6.2000	33	—	—	225(213)	34(33)	—
Karnataka L.A.	15.3.2000 to 4.5.2000	28	17(17)	—	3,337(390)	2,793	—
Karnataka L.C.	15.3.2000 to 3.5.2000	27	1(1)	—	1,681(403)	1,049	—
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	1,783	1,054	—

Maharashtra L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	16.3.2000 to 13.4.2000	18 &11	8(8)	3(3)	412(207)	10(28)	—
	16.6.2000 to 30.6.2000	—	—	—	412(208)	10(28)	—
Mizoram L.A.	15.3.2000 to 13.4.2000	18	5(4)	—	384(370)	121(118)	—
Nagaland L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	28.6.2000 to 2.8.2000	27	2(1)	3	90(90)	209(209)	—
Punjab L.A.	—	—	—	—	8(7)	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim L.A.	19.6.2000 to 24.6.2000	12	5(5)	—	54(54)	3(3)	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	1.3.2000 to 18.5.2000	43	24(24)	—	6,152(1638)(c)	(2,577)	12(6)
Tripura L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	23.3.2000 to 17.5.2000	29	13(16)	1	3,631(1,829)(d)	1,133(710)	1,340(830)(e)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	23.3.2000 to 17.5.2000	22	3(15)	—	409(200)	130(50)	55(20)
West Bengal L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Pondicherry L.A.	24.5.2000 to 9.6.2000	11	6(6)	—	444(185)(f)	(111)	

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

**Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

Notes:

a) 95 including Starred Questions admitted as Unstarred

b) 111 includes 89 Starred Questions circulated as Unstarred

c) 6,152 includes total number of Questions received

d) 1,829 includes 1,737 Starred Questions admitted as Unstarred

e) 830 includes 185 Short Notices admitted as Starred and 540 Short Notices admitted as Unstarred

f) 444 includes total number of Questions received

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK/NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2000

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Govt. Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members Bills and Resolutions	Committee on Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SC and ST	Estimates Committee	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	11	2	1	12	—	—	—	13	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.	4	—	12	—	—	—	20	—	27	1	6	6	50	1	—	37(a)
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A.	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	3	3	1	—	—	3	1	—	7(b)
Goa L.A.	2(2)	1	2	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2(1)	—	6(1)(c)
Gujarat L.A.	—	2	—	—	—	2	1	—	3	—	—	—	2	—	—	10(d)
Haryana L.A.	—	15	—	—	14	14	14	12	14	—	16	13	20	13	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A	—	—	—	—	1	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	35(e)
Jammu & Kashmir LA.	3(3)	4	2	—	1	3	1	—	3	1	3	1	3(1)	1	—	2(f)
Jammu & Kashmir LC.	4(4)	1	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Karnataka L.A.	5	3	5	1	6	4	7(1)	8	6(1)	—	5	9	9	—	—	16(2)(g)
Karnataka L.C.	4	7(1)	8(1)	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	10	—	11(1)(h)
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	—	—	4	—	2	5	3	6	6	—	1	1	11	3	—	5(i)
Maharashtra L.A.	—	17	12	—	—	13(1)	12	—	21(1)	—	—	—	19	—	—	57(2)(j)
Maharashtra L.C.	—	13	5	—	13(1)	13(1)	12	—	21(1)	—	—	—	19	—	—	57(2)(k)
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A.	2	7	6	—	—	5	1	6	6	—	2	5	1(1)	—	—	25(3)(l)
Mizoram L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	2	2	1	2	9	—	—	—
Nagaland L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	2	6	6	—	—	12	16	5	10	—	—	4	18(4)	—	—	14(m)
Punjab L.A.	—	19	11	—	8	8	13	—	22	—	—	9	20	—	—	21(n)

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Rajasthan L.A.	—	11	15	—	16	16	17	—	38	—	13	14	19	15	—	70(o)
Sikkim L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	13	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.	2	4(43)	2(3)	—	1	8(32)	—	—	11(6)	—	5	—	5(53)	1	—	4(22)(p)
Tripura L.A.	—	1	3	—	—	2	—	—	3	—	3	—	6	—	—	6(q)
Uttar Pradesh L.A.	—	14	4	—	2	2	4	4	2	—	—	—	14	1	—	5(r)
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY																
Pondicherry L.A.	1	6(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	—	—	22	1(1)	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

Notes:

(a) Zilla Panchayati and Zila Parishad Committee–8 sittings; Nivedan Committee–15 sittings; and Internal Resources Committee–14 sittings

(b) Committee on Government Undertakings–3 sittings; and Select Committee on the Delhi Plastic (Manufacture, Sales and Usage) and Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Bill, 1999–4 sittings

(c) House committee on Goa Antibiotic and Pharmaceutical Ltd.–1 sitting; House Committee to investigate in to the various irregularities by the Steel Industries set up in Goa–1 sitting; House Committee on Mining Rejects–1 report; and Budget Committee–4 sittings

(d) Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes–2 sittings; Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Tribes–2 sittings; Members Accommodation Committe–2 sittings; Committee on Panchayati Raj–3 sittings; and Committee on Welfare of socially and educationally Backward Classes–1 sitting

(e) Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Women Welfare–8 sittings; Agriculture and Horticulture Committee–4 sittings; Public Works and Tourism Committee–4 sittings; Forest and Excise Committee–4 sittings; Education and Finance Committee–4 sittings; Health and Rural Development Committee–7 sittings; and Revenue and Administration Committee–4 sittings

(f) House Committee to look into the default in the Advancement and recovery of loans by the Jammu and Kashmir State Financial Corporation–1 report; and House Committee on Promotion of Urdu Language in the State of Jammu and Kashmir–1 report

(g) Committee on Backward Classes and Minorities–7 sittings; and 1 report; Committee on Papers Laid–5 sittings and 1 report; and Committee on Women and Children Welfare–4 sittings

(h) Committee of the House to review the existing purchase policy of the Government–6 sittings and 1 report; Committee of the House on misappropriation of funds in water supply in Chickmagalur City–5 sittings

(i) Women and Children Welfare Committee–2 sittings; and Question and Reference Committee–3 sittings

(j) Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes–13 sittings; Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Tribes–14 sittings; Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes–5 sittings; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme–12 sittings; Committee on Panchayati Raj–6 sittings and 2 reports; Catering Committee–1 sitting; Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women–6 sittings

(k) Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes–13 sittings; Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Tribes–14 sittings; Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes–5 sittings; Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme–12 sittings; Committee on Panchayati Raj–6 sittings and 2 reports; Catering Committee–1 sitting; Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women–6 sittings

(l) Committee on Papers laid on the Table–6 sittings ; House Committee on English Medium Schools–2 sittings; and Committee on Women and Child Welfare–3 sittings

(m) Committee on Members Amenities–2 sittings; Ethics Committee–1 sitting; Committee on Papers laid on the Table–6 sittings; House Committee on English Medium School–2 sittings; and Committee on Women and Child Welfare–3 sittings

(n) Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward Clases–9 sittings; and Committee on Papers Laid to be Laid on the Table–12 sittings

(o) Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes–18 sittings; Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Tribes–18 sittings; Women and Child Welfare Committee–17 sittings; and Question and Reference Committee–17 sittings

(p) Committee on Delegated Legislation–1 sitting and 3 reports; and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table–3 sittings and 19 reports

(q) Committee on Delegated Legislation–1 sitting; Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes–1 sitting; and Commitee on Welfare of Scheduled Tribes–4 sittings

(r) Question and Reference Committee–4 sittings; and Parliamentary Reserach Reference and Studies Committee–1 sitting

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2000

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of assent by the President
1	2	3
1.	The Mizoram University Bill, 2000	25.4.2000
2.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2000	10.5.2000
3.	The Finance Bill, 2000	12.5.2000
4.	The Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2000	12.5.2000
5.	The Food Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2000	12.5.2000
6.	The Sugarcane Control (Additional Powers) Repeal Bill, 2000	12.5.2000
7.	The President's Emoluments and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2000	24.5.2000
8.	The National Housing Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2000	24.5.2000
9.	The Designs Bill, 2000	25.2.2000
10.	The Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 2000	7.6.2000
11.	The Leaders and Chief Whips of Recognised Parties and Groups in Parliament (Facilities) Amendment Bill, 2000	7.6.2000
12.	The Cotton Textiles Cess (Repeal) Bill, 2000	9.6.2000
13.	The Direct Tax Laws (Miscellaneous) Repeal Bill, 2000	9.6.2000
14.	The Information Technology Bill, 2000	9.6.2000
15.	The Major Port Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2000	9.6.2000
16.	*The Constitution (Eightieth Amendment) Bill, 2000	9.6.2000
17.	@The Constitution (Eighty-first Amendment) Bill, 2000	9.6.2000

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha as "The Constitution (Eighty-ninth Amendment) Bill, 2000. The Short Title of the Bill was changed by the Lok Sabha through an amendment to Clause 1.

@ The Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha as "The Constitution (Ninetieth Amendment) Bill, 2000. The Short Title of the Bill changed by Lok Sabha through an amendment to Clause 1.

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2000

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Bill, 2000
2. The Goa Pandhayat Raj (Third Amendment) Bill, 2000
*3. The Goa Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 2000
*4. The Goa Appropriation Bill, 2000
*5. The Goa Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2000
*6. The Goa Appropiation (No. 3.) Bill, 2000
*7. The Goa Appropiation (No. 4) Bill, 2000
*8. The Goa Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 2000
*9. The Goa Appropriation (No. 6) Bill, 2000
*10. The Goa, Daman and Diu Mundkars (Protection from Eviction) Amendment Bill, 2000
*11. The Goa Daman and Diu Administration of Evacuee Property (Amendment) Bill, 2000
*12. The Maharashtra Co-operative Societies (Goa Amendment) Bill, 2000
*13. The Goa Tax on Luxuries (Hotels and Lodging Houses) (Amendment) Bill, 2000
*14. The Goa Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
*15. The Goa School Education (Amendment) Bill, 2000
*16. The Goa, Daman and Diu Marine Fishing Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2000
*17. The Goa Tax on Entry of Goods Bill, 2000
*18. The Goa Rural Improvement and Welfare Cess Bill, 2000
*19. The Goa Cess on Fluid Milk (Control) Bill, 2000
*20. The Goa Prohibition of Smoking and Spitting (Amendment) Bill, 2000
*21. The Goa Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) (Amendment) Bill, 2000
*22. The Goa Salaries and Allowances of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker (Amendment) Bill, 2000
*23. The Goa Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of the Legislative Assembly (Amendment) Bill, 2000

* Awaiting assent

JAMMU AND KASHMIR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 2000
2. The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2000
3. The Jammu and Kashmir Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Jammu and Kashmir Entry Tax on Goods Bill, 2000
5. The Jammu and Kashmir Special Security Group Bill, 2000
6. The Majority (Amendment) Bill, 2000
7. The Constitution of Jammu and Kashmir (Thirtieth Amendment) Bill, 2000
8. The Jammu and Kashmir Forest (Amendment) Bill, 2000
9. The Court Fees (Amendment) Bill, 2000
10. The Jammu and Kashmir State Electricity Regulatory Commission Bill, 2000

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development (Amendment) Bill, 2000
2. The Bayaluseeme Development Board (Amendment) Bill, 2000
3. The Karnataka Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) (Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Karnataka Oil Palm (Regulation of Cultivation, Production and Processing) Bill, 2000
5. The Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2000

*6. The Karnataka Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000

*7. The Karnataka Panchayat Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000

*8. The Karnataka Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2000

*9. The Karnataka Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2000

10. The Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill, 2000

*11. The Karnataka Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2000

*12. The Karnataka Motor Vehicle Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000

*13. The Karnataka Stamp and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2000

*14. The Karnataka Appropriation Bill, 2000

*15. The Karnataka Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2000

*16. The Karnataka Tax on Entry of Goods (Amendment) Bill, 2000

*17. The Karnataka Court Fees and Suits Valuation (Amendment) Bill, 2000

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Karnataka Rent Control Amendment, Bill 2000

MEGHALAYA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Meghalaya Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000

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* Awaiting assent

2. The Meghalaya Lokayukta and Up Lokayukta Bill, 2000
3. The Meghalaya Legislator Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Meghalaya (Members' Pension) Amendment Bill, 2000
5. The Meghalaya Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2000
6. The Meghalaya Motor Vehicle Taxation (2nd Amendment) Bill, 2000
7. The Meghalaya Appropriation (No. 1) Bill, 2000
8. The Meghalaya Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 2000
9. The Meghalaya Amusement and Betting Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
10. The Meghalaya Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2000
11. The Meghalaya Appropriation Bill (No. II) 2000

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Mizoram Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2000

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Entry Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000

PONDICHERRY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Appropriation (No. II) Bill, 2000
2. The Indian Stamp (Pondicherry Amendment) Bill, 2000
3. The Pondicherry Open Places (Prevention of disfigurement) Bill, 2000
4. The Pondicherry Compulsory Elementary Education Bill, 2000
5. The Pondicherry General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
6. The Pondicherry Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2000

TAMIL NADU LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
2. The Tamil Nadu Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Bill, 2000
3. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Third Amendment) Bill, 2000
4. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2000
5. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Income-tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
6. The Tamil Nadu Tax on Luxuries (Amendment) Bill, 2000
7. The Tamil Nadu Agricultural Income-Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
8. The Tamil Nadu Marine Fishing Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 2000
9. The Tamil Nadu Legislature (Prevention of Disqualification) Amendment Bill, 2000
10. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2000
11. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2000
12. The Tamil Nadu General Sales Tax (Seventh Amendment) Bill, 2000
13. The Tamil Nadu Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2000
14. The Tamil Nadu Entertainments Tax (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000

15. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 2000
16. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Second Amendment) Bill, 2000
*17. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Third Amendment) Bill, 2000
*18. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fourth Amendment) Bill, 2000
19. The Tamil Nadu Panchayats (Fifth Amendment) Bill, 2000
*20. The Tamil Nadu Municipal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2000
21. The Tamil Nadu Societies Registration (Amendment) Bill, 2000
*22. The Registration (Tamil Nadu Amendment) Bill, 2000
23. The Tamil Nadu Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2000
*24. The Tamil Nadu Farmers' Management of Irrigation Systems Bill, 1999

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Uttar Pradesh Sahakari Samiti (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
2. The Uttar Pradesh Panchayat Vidhi (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
3. The Uttar Pradesh Vyapar Kar (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
4. The Uttar Pradesh Viniyog (Lekhanudan) Vidheyak, 2000
5. The Uttar Pradesh Mall Ke Prabesh Parkar Vidheyak, 2000
6. The Uttar Pradesh Abkari (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
7. The Uttar Pradesh Niyantran (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
8. The Uttar Pradesh Amool Aur Panaka Dwitiya (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
9. The Uttar Pradesh Udyogik Jhogda (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
10. The Uttar Pradesh Basic Shiksha (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
11. The Uttar Pradesh Krishi Eban Pradhyogik Vishwavidyalaya (Sansodhan Vidheyak), 2000
12. The Uttar Pradesh Prabodhik Vishwavidyalaya Vidheyak, 2000
13. The Uttar Pradesh Motor Diesel Oil Tatha Alcohol Bikri Karadhana (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
14. The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidhan Mandal Sadasyon Ki Upalabdhiyaon Aur Pension (Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000
15. The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidhan Mandal Sadasyon Ke Uplabdhiyon Aur Pension (Dwitiya Sansodhan) Vidheyak, 2000

* Awaiting assent

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2000

Sl. No.	Subject	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid Before the House	Date of cessation	Remarks
		UNION GOVERNMENT			
		-NIL-			
		STATE GOVERNMENTS			
		GUJARAT			
1.	The Gujarat Khar Lands (Repeal) Ordinance, 2000	7.6.2000	—	—	—
		HARYANA			
1.	The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	7.4.2000	—	—	—
		KARNATAKA			
1.	The Karnataka Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	25.2.2000	—	—	—

2.	The Karnataka Agriculture Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	7.6.2000	—	—	—
3.	The Karnataka Irrigation and Certain Other Law (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	7.6.2000	—	—	—
4.	The Bangalore Development Authority (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	22.6.2000	—	—	—
			MAHARASHTRA		
1.	The Maharashtra Universities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	12.5.2000	—	—	—
2.	The State Election Commissioner (Qualification and Appointment) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	23.6.2000	—	—	—

UTTAR PRADESH

1.	The U.P. Plastic and Other Non-biodegraded Garbage (Regulation of use and disposal) Ordinance, 2000	29.6.2000	—	—	—
2.	The UP Cooperative Societies (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 2000	27.7.2000	—	—	—

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 24 AUGUST 2000)

Sl. No.	Seats	INC	AIADMK	SP	CPI(M)	CPI	CPI(ML) (L)	RJD	RSP	BSP	AIM EIM	MUL	KCM	RLD	KC	SJP(R)	AIFB	TDP	BJP	JD(U)	SAD	BJD	AITC	JD (Samata)
Andhra Pradesh	42	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	7	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	10	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	54	4	—	—	1	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	8	—	—	—	10
Goa	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	2	—	—	—	1
Kerala	20	8	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	40	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	10	—	—
Punjab	13	8	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	2	10	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	85	10	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	3	—	—	21	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	9	—
Nominated	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
UNION TERRITORIES																								
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	545	113	10	26	33	3	1	7	3	14	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	29	182	10	2	10	9	12

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

A. PARTY POSITION IN LOK SABHA (AS ON 24 AUGUST 2000)

Sl. No.	SS	SAD(M)	INLD	JD(S)	DMK	MGR-ADMK	PMK	MDMK	HVC	BBM	J&KNC	SDF	NCP	MSCP	PWP	ABLTC	IND	TOTAL	VACANCIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	54	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—
Maharashtra	15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	1	—	1	48	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	
Punjab	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	24	1
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	12	1	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	1
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Uttar Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	85	—
West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
UNION TERRITORIES																			
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

INC–Indian National Congress; AIADMK–All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; SP–Samajwadi Party; CPI(M)–Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI–Community Party of India; CPI(ML)–Communist Party of India (Marxist Leninist) Liberation; RJD–Rashtriya Janata Dal; RSP–Revolutionary Socialist Party; BSP–Bahujan Samaj Party; AIMEIM–All India Majlis-e-ittehadul Muslimeen; MUL–Muslim League; KCM–Kerala Congress (M); RLD–Rashtriya Lok Dal; KC-Kerala Congress; SJP(R)–Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya); AIFB–All India Forward Bloc; TDP–Telugu Desam Party; BJP–Bharatiya Janata Party; JD(U)–Janata Dal (United); SAD–Shiromani Akali Dal; BJD–Biju Janata Dal; AITC–All India Trinamool Congress; JD(Samata)–Janata Dal (Samata); SS–Shiv Sena; SAD(M)–Shiromani Akali Dal (SS Mann); INLD–Indian National Lok Dal; JD(S)–Janata Dal (Secular); DMK–Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MGRADMK–MGR Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; PMK–Pattali Makkal Katchi; MDMK–Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; HVC–Himachal Vikas Congress; BBM–Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh; J&K NC–Jammu and Kashmir National Conference; SDF–Sikkim Democratic Front; NCP–Nationalist Congress Party; MSCP–Manipur State Congress Party; PWP–Peasants and Workers Party of India; ABLTC–Akhil Bharatiya Lok Tantrik Congress; IND–Independents

B. PARTY POSITION IN RAJYA SABHA
(AS ON 17 JULY 2000)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	TDP	RJD	DMK	SP	JD	CPI	AIA-DMK	Shiv Sena	SAD	Others	Indep-endents	Total	Vacan-cies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	STATES																	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	2	1	1	13	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
3.	Assam	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3(a)	—	7	—
4.	Bihar	22	2	4	—	—	10	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	3(b)	—	22	—
5.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
6.	Gujarat	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
7.	Haryana	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(c)	—	5	—
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(d)	—	3	—
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(e)	—	4	—
10.	Karnataka	12	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—
11.	Kerala	9	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	4(f)	—	9	—
12.	Madhya Pradesh	16	10	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—
13.	Maharashtra	19	5	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	2(g)	3	19	—
14.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
15.	Meghalaya	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
16.	Mizoram	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Nagaland	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
18.	Orissa	10	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(h)	—	10	—

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19.	Punjab	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	1	7	—
20.	Rajasthan	10	6	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
21.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1(i)	—	1	—
22.	Tamil Nadu	18	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	5	—	—	3(j)	2	18	—
23.	Tripura	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
24.	Uttar Pradesh	34	2	15	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	5(k)	4	34	—
25.	West Bengal	16	1	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(l)	2	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES																		
26.	Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Pondicherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
	Nominated	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	12	—
	TOTAL	245	57	47	15	13	10	9	9	6	6	5	5	5	34	24	245	—

(a) A.G.P.–2; A.S.D.C.–1
(b) J.M.M.–2; Samata Party–1
(c) I.N.L.D.–2; H.V.P.–1
(d) H.V.C.–1
(e) J&K N.C.–3
(f) M.L.–2; K.C.–1; R.S.P.–1
(g) R.P.I.–1; N.C.P.
(h) B.J.D.–3
(i) S.D.F.–1
(j) T.M.C.–3
(k) B.S.P.–4; Akhil Bhartiya Lok Tantrik Congress–1
(l) A.I.F.B.–1; R.S.P.–2

C. PARTY POSITION IN STATE LEGISLATURES

State/Union territories	Seats	Cong.(I)	Janata Dal	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	Others Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Andhra Pradesh L.A. (1.7.2000)	295	91	—	12	2	—	185[a]	5	295	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A. (1.7.2000)	60	55	—	—	—	—	3[b]	2	60	—
Assam L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A. (30.6.2000)	325	22	—	67	2	5	208[c]	20	324*	—
Bihar L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Delhi L.A. (1.7.2000)	70	53	1	14	—	—	—	2	70	—
Goa L.A. (1.7.2000)	40	15	—	10	—	—	14[d]	1	40	—
Gujarat L.A. (1.7.2000)	182	55	4	118	—	—	—	4	181	1
Haryana L.A. (1.7.2000)	90	21	—	6	—	—	51[e]	11	89*	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A. (1.7.2000)	68	28	—	35	—	—	3[f]	1	67*	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A. (1.8.2000)	89	6	5	8	1	—	64[g]	2	86	3
Jammu & Kashmir L.C. (1.7.2000)	36	—	—	1	—	1	28[h]	—	30	6
Karnataka L.A. (1.7.2000)	225	135	—	44	—	—	24[i]	19	222*	2

Karnataka L.C. (21.6.2000)	75	25	5	14	—	—	27[g]	2	73	1
Kerala L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (30.6.2000)	321	175	1	118	—	—	16[k]	9	319	1
Maharashtra L.A. (1.7.2000)	289	73	—	56	2	—	144[f]	12	287	2
Maharashtra L.C. (1.7.2000)	78	13	2	16	—	—	32[m]	13	76	2
Manipur L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya L.A. (30.6.2000)	60	15	—	—	—	—	45[n]	—	60	—
Mizoram L.A. (1.7.2000)	40	6	—	—	—	—	34[o]	—	40	—
Nagaland L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A. (1.7.2000)	147	26	—	38	1	1	73[b]	8	147	—
Punjab L.A. (1.7.2000)	117	15	—	18	—	2	77[e]	5	117	—
Rajasthan L.A. (30.6.2000)	200	154	3	30	1	—	8[r]	3	199	1
Sikkim L.A. (1.7.2000)	32	—	—	—	—	—	32[s]	—	32	—
Tamil Nadu L.A. (3.7.2000)	235	—	—	2	2	8	218[t]	1	231*	3
Tripura L.A. (1.7.2000)	60	13	—	—	38	1	6[u]	2	60	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A. (30.6.2000)	426	15	4	175	4	1	215[v]	12	426	—

Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.7.2000)	108	2	—	50	1	—	44[m]	10	108	1
West Bengal L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORY										
Pondicherry L.A. (1.7.2000)	33	8	1	—	—	2	20[n]	1	31	1

❶ Excluding Speaker

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

a) Telugu Desam Party–180; All India Majlis-Ittehad-ul-Muslimeen-4; and Nominated–1

b) NCP–2; and AC-1

c) Rashtriya Janata Dal–124; Samata Party–34; Janata Dal (U)–21; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha–12; CPI (Male)–6; Bahujan Samaj Party–5; Congress Samajwadi Party–2; UGDP–2; Marxist Coordination Committee–1; and Nominated–1

d) Goa People's Congress Party–11; Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party–2; and Nationalist Congress Party–1

e) Indian National Lok Dal–46; Haryana Vikas Party–2; Bahujan Samaj Party–1; Nationalist Congress Party–1; and Republican Party of India–1

f) Himachal Vikas Congress–3

g) National Conference–54; BSP–4; Panthers Party–1; PDP–2; Awami League–1 and Nominated–2

h) National Conference–28

i) Janata Dal (U)–18; Janata Dal (S)–4; AIADMK–1; and Nominated–1

j) Janata Dal (S)–15; Janata Dal (U)–9; Separate Group of JD–3

k) Bahujan Samaj Party–7; Samajvadi Party–4; Republican Party of India–1; Janata Party–1; Gondawana Republican Party–1; Ajay Bharat Party–1; and Nominated–1

l) Shiv Sena–70; Nationalist Congress Party–58; Peasants and Workers Party–5; Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh–3; Janata Dal (Secular)–2; Samajwadi Party–1; Gondwana Gantantra Party–1; Native Peoples' Party–1; Republican Party of India–1; Samajwadi Janata Party (Maharashtra)–1; and Samajwadi Party (B)–1

m) Shiv Sena–17; Nationalist Congress Party–13; Republican Party of India–1; and Bharipa Bahujan Mahasangh–1

n) Meghalaya Parliamentary Forum–41; and United Parliamentary Forum–4

o) Mizo National Front–22; and Mizoram People's Conference–12

p) Biju Janata Dal–68; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha–3; Janata Dal (S)–1; and AITUC–1

q) Shiromani Akali Dal–62; Unattached–13; Shiromani Akali Dal (Mann)–1; and Bahujan Samaj Party–1

r) Bahujan Samaj Party–2; Rashtriya Janata Dal–1; and Independents (Rashtriya Loktantrik Vidhayak Dal Group)–5

s) Sikkim Democratic Front–25; and Sikkim Sangram Parishad–7

t) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam–164; Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)–37; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam–4; Indian National League–3; Pattali Makkal Katchi–3; All India Forward Bloc–2; Tamil Maanila National League–2; Puthiya Tamilagam–1; Unattached–1; and Nominated–1

u) RSP–2; and TUJS–4

v) Samajwadi Party–105; Bahujan Samaj Party–50; Uttar Pradesh Loktantrik Congress–19; Janatantrik Bahujan Samaj Party–19; Lok Dal–8; Janata Dal (Raja Ram Pandey)–3; Samata Party–2; Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya)–1; Apna Dal–1; Rashtriya Lok Dal–1; Rashtriya Kranti Party–1; Nominated–1; and Unattached–4

w) Samajwadi Party–22; Bahujan Samaj Party–10; Bharatiya Loktantrik Congress–2; and Shikshyak Dal (Non-Political)–10

x) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam–10; Tamil Maanila Congress (Moopanar)–6; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam–2; Pattali Makkal Katchi–1; All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (Thiru)–1

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